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THE INDEPENDENT

Tuesday 16 September 1997 20p (IR 20p) No 3,403

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TODAY'S NEWS

Sinn Fein sit down

Multi-party talks finally opened at Stormont in Northern Ireland yesterday, with Sinn Fein at the negotiating table. But, following a very unhelpful statement from the IRA last week, the unionist parties were not present. David Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionists, sat munched rolls and soup in a Belfast café as the pressure mounted on him to turn up and talk. Despite that, both the British and Irish governments have high hopes that the Protestants will enter the negotiations soon – perhaps even as early as today. That would mark an historic first, bringing the two sides together at last.

David McKittrick reports on page 8

Royal reform agenda

The experiences of the Royal Family since the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, have provoked discussions at Buckingham Palace about lessons that need to be learned. As the palace hit back in an unusually strongly worded statement refuting a series of stories about its handling of the funeral, a spokesman admitted that the monarchy would have to adapt.

Full story, page 3

Killer wasps at large
Species of insects lured north by climate change are spreading across Britain. They include particularly nasty varieties of wasp and hornets, which have been making people's lives a misery this summer.

Page 14

Benazir hunted

Switzerland has frozen bank accounts held there by Benazir Bhutto and her family, at the request of the Pakistan government. This is the most dramatic move in a campaign waged against the former Prime Minister by her opponents who allege that she was involved in massive corruption. Page 11

SEEN & HEARD

Radio 3 is fed up with the cold and flu season disturbing its recordings of classical concerts, so in order to guarantee perfect silence this autumn it is giving out cough sweets to the audiences in concert halls. The radio station has developed its own brand of strong cough sweets which will be given out by dispensers in dozens of concert halls, including the Royal Festival Hall and the Symphony Hall in Birmingham. The BBC has even gone to the lengths of producing a rustle-free wrapper for the sweets to ensure that the listener at home knows nothing of the audience's sucking habits. A BBC spokeswoman denied that asthma inhalers will be tried if the sweets don't work.

Blair: My vision for the year 2000



Tony Blair: 'We've been given a huge opportunity, and it is a huge responsibility to make the most of it'

Photograph: Brian Harris

Tony Blair last night committed himself to an ambitious programme to rid Britain of the underclass he inherited in May. In an interview with *The Independent* he warned of more tough decisions ahead on the Welfare State, and indicated that private companies could be involved in his reforms of it.

Our Political Editor reports on the Prime Minister's new 'test for the millennium' and his post-election programme, to be unveiled at this month's Labour conference:

An ambitious three-pronged programme to 'create a country that can hold its head high as the model of what a 21st-Century developed nation should be,' was last night outlined by the Prime Minister.

Speaking from Chequers, Mr Blair said the three key elements, which will be used to focus the Labour conference later this month, were a competitive economy built not on low wages, but high skills, and the creativity of a well-educated workforce; a society 'where we are getting rid of this idea of an underclass, a set of people apart from the rest of society'; and an end to the years of Conservative isolationism in world affairs.

Mr Blair said: 'All those things are achievable. It is possible for us to create a country of greater opportunity, provided we set aside some of the problems we have had in the past and provided the Labour Party and the Labour Government is concentrated on addressing the real concerns of people, rather than slipping backwards.'

But he warned that there were hard choices ahead. The Government had already taken tough action on the economy: giving the Bank of England independence to set interest rates, and by cutting the budget deficit, national debt and public borrowing. No decisions had yet been taken on reform of the Welfare State, but he added: 'The basic principle is that the role of government is to organise proper levels of social provision.'

'Some may be done directly through the private sector, some through the public sector, some may be done by a combination of public-private sector.'

'I don't think anyone seriously believes that pension provision in the future is going to be the preserve solely of the public sector. It isn't. And there are other areas where we've got to make sense of the modern world.'

Mr Blair cited the position taken by the Government on student finance – 'Another very good example of which is a difficult and hard decision.'

He said: 'The only way we are going to get additional resources into the university system and allow larger numbers of students is if we change the system of finance, where the state will provide a fair framework.'

The Prime Minister would not be

speech to party activists in an attempt to get a grip on his party.'

But Mr Blair told *The Independent*: 'The Conservatives still haven't decided what type of political party they are. But for a large part of the party, however, they see it drifting further and further to the Right, and there will be a lot of One Nation Tories who are dissatisfied.'

'They have carried on in a situation where they still will not choose between the wish to carry on with the policies of the 1980s and Thatcherism, or whether they wish to return to the centre-ground and they have not decided that.'

'But most of the direction appears to be moving to the Right, and that is the dominant strain of the Tory party. Well, I think a lot of the One Nation Conservatives will not feel that their place any longer is in the Conservative Party.'

A senior Labour Party source suggested earlier that there could be further defections afoot. 'Watch this space,' he said.

But Mr Blair said that the Tories should not be under-estimated. 'I do not write them off in any shape or form,' he said. 'The difficulty for them is that they don't have clear direction and until they get that clear direction ...' As for his own position, Mr Blair said that considerable strides had been made towards the delivery of Labour's manifesto pledges on education, health, employment, and law and order – 'giving us we've only been in government, what, five months.'

There did not mean that he was resting on his laurels. 'I believe we are doing a good job. But I am not complacent about it and I think it's very important that there is a sense of humility in the Government, too. That we recognise that we've been given a huge opportunity, and it is a huge responsibility to make the most of it.'

BY ANTHONY BEVINS

drawn on the application of those principles to other areas of welfare – like the burgeoning bill for disability benefits – but Government sources argue that part of Labour's current popularity is built on the public recognition that a sound foundation is being made for the future.

There is also a strong element of the Prime Minister making use of the unique political scene – a combination of a landslide majority to May, a new deal of co-operation with the Liberal Democrats, who attend their first meeting of the 'Lab-Dem' Cabinet committee on constitutional reform tomorrow, and the continuing turmoil in the Tory ranks.

With the defection of former MP Hugh Dykes in yesterday's headlines, leading figures like Lord Tebbit questioning William Hague's expenditure, and Kenneth Clarke appealing for an end to 'carping', the new Conservative leader last night delivered a hastily arranged

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2/BRIEFING

OUR CHANGES



This morning *The Independent* has changed. It has changed because *The Independent* exists not only to be newsy and entertaining, but also to be challenging and innovative. When we first launched, 11 years ago, we changed the broadsheet market, bringing fresh ideas and attitudes. We aim to do the same again, by creating a paper that is accessible and easy to read while being serious and responsible; that meets the needs of modern readers, and enables us to give you the best writing and the best pictures in the format that most suits you. For that reason we have spent many months testing this new paper with you, our readers, and with readers of other papers. We are confident that you will find it a vast improvement.

The idea of the new front page is very simple. It will carry the best picture and the best or most interesting piece of writing we have to offer on the day. Sometimes it will be a conventional lead story, sometimes it won't. Alongside, there will be a panel listing all the lead stories of the day, in an easily accessible form.

The soul of the paper is unaltered: our writers, pictures, and our political and cultural approach are all as you'd expect. The vessel, though, is radically different. Big, hoarsely shouting headlines are out. This should make the paper easier to read, but it also means that there are more stories and more words per page than before. If the opposite of dumbing-down is smartening-up, then that is what we are doing.

The main aim of the new look is to be useful. Headlines will be more clearly descriptive. We have introduced pithy explanatory paragraphs at the top of every main story to give you the essence of the piece. Each page has a label; where stories about health, or crime, or whatever, are grouped together, you know what you are getting.

A series of story-packed pages, mainly on the left-hand side, ensures that readers of *The Independent* will know everything they need to, every day. But there will be plenty of space too for us to dwell on the big subjects. The out-of-date rigid division between home news and international news has been broken down. When we have, say, environmental stories from different countries, it seems perverse to scatter them throughout the paper: they will all go on one page.

We have brought features pages, along with some arts and style pages, back into the main broadsheet section. The sharper second section now has two clear roles. One is to provide special daily supplements containing job-related advertising: "Media+" on Monday, "Network+" on Tuesday, "City+" on Wednesday, and "Education+" on Thursday. Around these goes a daily arts and listings guide, with interviews and other features, called "The Eye". On Fridays, "The Eye" is a more substantial offering, with all the best features and reviews of the week's film openings and music. Tom Sutcliffe's daily television column appears page three of "The Eye"; the TV listings remain, handily, on the back. An addition to the paper is Bill Hartston's daily weather column, also in "The Eye".

Other new features include cartoon strips (below). One is the attractively named "Zits", a hugely popular new American strip which is published here for the first time; the other is "7.30 for 8" by Chris Priestley. It takes place at a never-ending dinner party, where a mix of guests chew over the pasta, themselves and the world around us. Chris also takes over our main leader-page slot.

On Saturday, the order of supplements is a little altered, with more about spending money, travel and with the usual array of columnists. Our Saturday magazine is now called "ISM", which stands for Independent Saturday Magazine.

This morning, *The Independent* is simply the best-looking and best-written paper you can buy. I would ask all readers, new ones and regular loyalists, to give themselves a little time to soak it up. The introductory price is offered partly as a modest thank-you to those regulars who have stood by us in the difficult times and as an unashamed invitation to new readers to try us for a few days. But this is not a price-cutting strategy: from next Monday we will sell at the normal broadsheet price. We have been working a long time on this, and, after halting the paper's circulation slide, I feel this is the right moment to jump ahead again. Write to me with your reactions. I promise to read every letter, though I can't promise individual replies. And... enjoy!

Andrew Marr
Editor

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PEOPLE



Tracey Ullman and friends put girl power into the Emmy limelight

British actresses stole the limelight at America's prestigious television awards in Los Angeles this weekend as Tracey Ullman and Diana Rigg were each awarded an Emmy in a ceremony watched by an estimated 620 million television viewers worldwide.

Ullman won her award for best variety, music or comedy series with *Tracey Takes All*. She said: "As the Spice Girls could say, 'Girl Power! I beat the boys.'

Rigg won the outstanding supporting actress award for her role in the mini-series *Rebecca*. There was also acclaim for British star Helen Mirren as *Prime Suspect 5: Errors of Judgement* won best mini-series for the third time. But Mirren lost out in the best-actress awards.

Frasier was named best comedy for the fourth consecutive year while *Law & Order* was a first-time winner as best drama, making NBC the top network at

the 49th annual Emmy Awards. In the acting categories three of the sections mirrored last year's winners – *NYPD Blue*'s Dennis Franz as best actor in a drama, Helen Hunt, in *Mad About You*, best actress in a comedy, and John Lithgow as best actor in a comedy for his role as an alien in human form in *Third Rock from the Sun*, which won five awards.

The only newcomer in the top acting categories was Gillian Anderson as best actress in a drama, for *The X-Files*. HBO's mini-series *Miss Ever's Boys*, about government experiments on black men with syphilis, also won five Emmys, including one for Alfre Woodard as best actress in a mini-series.

One major winner was NBC's hospital drama *ER*, which had the most nominations, with 22, but which won only three technical Emmys.

— David Lister

Children's saviour enters race for Irish presidency

Adi Roche, the children's campaigner, yesterday did an about-turn and agreed to enter the race for the post of President of Ireland.

The invitation to stand came from Dick Spring, the Labour leader, after she earlier declined a Flanna Fail approach.

Ms Roche, who is running as the People's candidate to embrace the widest possible support, said in June she was unwilling to step down as head of the Chernobyl Children's Project charity she founded six years ago, since when she has led

70-truck convoys carrying medical supplies to the Ukraine, and has arranged medical assistance for children affected by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in 1986.

Bookmakers have made Ms Roche, 42, the 11-10 favourite, with former Taoiseach Albert Reynolds 4-1, former foreign minister David Andrews 9-4, and Fine Gael's Mary Banotti 7-2. Deirdre, the singer, will also appear on the ballot after securing her fourth local council nomination last night.

— Alan Murdoch

Basil plays hide-and-seek in Blunderland

Cardinal Basil Hume, the head of the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales, has described his spiritual life as "more a wandering in Blunderland than a resting and relaxing in Wonderland."

In his new book, *Basil in Blunderland*, published today, the Cardinal gives a frank account of how he finds it difficult to pray, adding that "to realise that we are inept and that we blunder is

healthy". He likens a relationship with God to a game of hide-and-seek. Praying, he says, is "like telephoning somebody who appears to be deaf and apparently has nothing to say," but, nevertheless, for everyone.

In the prologue, he refers to the Caucus-race organised by the Dodo in Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*. When Alice asked "What is a Caucus-race?", the

Dodo replied: "The best way to explain is to do it," and, at the end of the race, the Dodo declared: "Everybody has won, and all must have prizes."

Both statements are, in the Cardinal's view, "profoundly theological". "In God's world everybody wins, but... you have to join the race. If you refuse to run in God's race, you won't get a prize."

— Clare Gammie

ZITS by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



7.30 FOR 8: by Chris Priestley



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3/ROYALS BESIEGED

THE INDEPENDENT
TUESDAY
16 SEPTEMBER 1997

Sources close to Kitty Kelley reveal it's all a lot of tittle-tattle

Kitty Kelley, the controversial American biographer, will set the world gossiping this week about the loves and private lives of the Royal Family.

But is it all tawdry hype rehashing ancient and unproven gossip? Paul McCann talks to some of the people cited as "sources".

The veracity of the Kelley muck-raking book *The Royals* crumbled yesterday after her named sources emerged as professional gossips, left-wing republican journalists or were simply dead.

Much of the information in the book is attributed to "confidential sources" in the royal household, but many of those who are named denied yesterday providing Ms Kelley with any useful information while others turned out to be the third-hand reminiscences of dead aristocrats.

The Duke of Leeds, who is the source of many intimate details of the Queen's early married years, actually died in 1964. Instead his testimony is reported third-hand through Nigel Dempster, the *Daily Mail* gossip columnist, who is married to the Duke's daughter.

Indeed the book's index reads like a who's who of Britain's highest-paid gossips and includes Ross Benson of the *Express*, Peter McKay of the *Daily Mail* and Taki, columnist at *The Spectator*.

Dame Barbara Cartland, the romantic novelist, is quoted as the source of information on Earl Mountbatten and Prince Charles, but she denied ever having met, spoken to or corresponded with Kitty Kelley. "My secretary told me she wasn't safe," said Dame Barbara yesterday.

"So she wouldn't let me speak to her." A close reading of *The Royals* reveals that Dame Barbara's information is in fact lifted from an old interview.

Michael Cole, the former BBC court correspondent and spokesman for Mohamed Al Fayed, refused to help Ms Kelley yet found himself in the book as the source of a quote by Andrew Morton, writer of *Diana: Her True Story*. In fact Mr Cole's quote was lifted from a letter he wrote to *The Independent* in 1992. "It rather indi-

cates the essence of the techniques that have been used," said Mr Cole yesterday.

The provenance of other material may be difficult to ever substantiate. John Barrett, former private secretary to Earl Mountbatten, is quoted on the Royal Family's alleged parsimony. Mr Barrett died in 1993 just when Ms Kelley started her research.

Some of the less "establishment" sources named in the book include Rosie Boycott, editor of the *Independent on Sunday*, the writer Christopher Hitchens and Ian Hislop, editor of *Private Eye*.

"I told her zip," said Mr Hislop yesterday. "She came to one *Private Eye* lunch, she got an indifferent steak above the Coach and Horses in Soho and that was it."

Ms Boycott said yesterday that Ms Kelley's choice of informants seemed wide: "If she's quoting me as a source it makes one shudder to think about the quality of her sources. I've only heard the same codswallop that the world has heard. I met her twice and suggested she talk to a friend who told her nothing."

"I think she found it very difficult to get information here compared to in the US where everyone eventually gave it to her. It just didn't work like that here which is why the book was extended beyond just Prince Philip."

However, Christopher Hitchens, who is based in Washington DC and has read the book, believes it has some merit: "It is the best single account of how their reputation got to the state it is in now. It contains at least a mention of everything you've ever heard. It's all there and there is also some added value. Some rumours she chases down and disproves, others she makes a good case for."

Despite the lack of named royal sources Ms Kelley's reputation for conducting massive research means each book contains some great stories. No one has yet sued Ms Kelley for claiming Nancy Reagan dominated her husband and had an affair with Frank Sinatra in the White House. A story missed by the rest of the world's press.



Dame Barbara Cartland: "I didn't speak to her". The Duke of Leeds: Has been dead for 33 years



Kitty Kelley: Despite the lack of named royal sources her reputation for massive research means each of her books contains some great stories. None of her subjects has sued her. Photograph: Colorific



Ian Hislop: "She didn't tell me anything". Rosie Boycott: "I told her to speak to a friend"



Tears – and just a tinge of regret

She's written a book full of deceit, greed, sexual dalliance and general dysfunction. But Kitty Kelley is feeling a touch of remorse as her biography of the Windsor dynasty hits bookshops in America tomorrow. Review copy in hand, David Usborne understands her embarrassment.

The American biographer who spent four years trawling London for sleazy morsels on the myriad tribulations of the Windsors is voicing regret. Sort of.

Kitty Kelley, whose tome, *The Royals*, will not be published in Britain, tearfully told a television interviewer last night that she had asked for a delay in publication, out of respect for Diana, the Princess of

Wales. The book, which amounts to a 500-page chronology of the serial crises, most of them already well-known, to have afflicted the Royal Family over 80 years since the First World War, is being released one week early by its publisher, Warner Books, because of the heightened public interest in the Royals.

"I feel awkward about coming out with the book right now," Ms Kelley told the NBC news magazine, *Dateline*. "I'm absolutely brought by the Princess's death. And I wish I weren't coming out with the book now".

According to a transcript obtained before the interview's broadcast, Ms Kelley continued: "It just seemed a powerful book. It can wait. The publishers argument was people need to know this. They're hungry for information."

So laden is the book with tales of deceit, greed, sexual dalliance and general dysfunction that passages concerned with

Diana seem almost tame. More certain public attention – and of distress inside the Palace – are sections offering stories less well known about the Windsors themselves.

Almost at the book's opening comes the much anticipated revelation that the Queen and Princess Margaret were brought into the world with the assistance of artificial insemination. King George VI, according to Ms Kelley, had trouble in the stud department.

Sex, unsurprisingly, is the ingredient that runs through the book and which guarantees its shock value. Well-rehearsed in these pages, are the departures from fidelity of Prince Charles (Camilla), Diana (Hewitt) and Sarah Ferguson (Bryan).

There is hardly a member of the Royal Family, of any generation, whose fidelity is not questioned by Kelley and the marriage of Prince Philip and the Queen is stripped bare.

The Queen herself is unlikely, mean-

while, to appreciate Ms Kelley's portrayal of her as a cold and distant mother. The author quotes the Queen Mother telling someone at a dinner party that the perception that Prince Philip had been the beastly parent to Charles was wrong. "If they only knew the truth," she allegedly said. "It was always Lilibet who was too strict and Philip who tried to moderate her."

The book, particularly its conclusion, is inevitably coloured by the Diana tragedy that came after its dispatch to the printers.

Especially poignant is the claim that the Queen has found it too painful seriously to contemplate plans, codenamed Operation Lion, for dealing with the death of the Queen Mother.

But she apparently had made it clear that any funeral should be special indeed, culminating in a service and eulogies in Westminster Abbey.

That funeral, of course, has now happened. But it was not the Queen Mother's.

Palace hits back at series of inaccurate stories

Rumours of rifts and splits within the Royal Family have kept the media busy since the death of the Princess of Wales.

But, as Jojo Moyes reports, "The Firm" is fighting back.

The death of Diana, Princess of Wales, has prompted Buckingham Palace and Prince Charles's advisers to begin discussions over reforms to the monarchy.

In a strongly worded statement, the palace hit back at "inaccurate stories" about its handling of the funeral and reiterated the Queen's stated view that there were lessons to be drawn from the Princess's death and the public reaction to it.

The statement warned against speculating about what form the changes might take.

That process ... is not helped for the Royal Family or anyone else by unfounded speculation. As for lessons for the palace, the Queen's advisers are of course working closely with the Prince of Wales's office," a spokesman said.

The Prince of Wales has long encouraged debate about the reform of the monarchy through his Way Forward group, comprising the Royal Family and immediate staff, which meets twice a year.

He is understood to have advocated such measures as cutting the size of the official HRH-styled Royal Family, allowing first-born daughters to succeed the throne, and ending the ban on marrying Roman Catholics.

But a spokesman said yesterday that the discussions relating to the Princess's death were "a different thing", and not something that would necessarily be



Prince Charles: Encouraged debate

discussed by the Way Forward group.

Either way, a survey in the *Daily Telegraph* last week underlined the need for reform. When asked whether the monarchy needed to change, 71 per cent of those polled agreed, compared with 54 per cent in 1994.

Calls for reform were strengthened by the apparent inability of the palace to be seen to respond effectively to the mood of national mourning. Reports yesterday suggested that this was due to a public relations failure, rather than a failure of the

palace itself. Perhaps in light of this, the palace used an unusually strong and comprehensive statement yesterday to scotch "speculation and inaccurate stories" of rifts within the palace in the days surrounding her funeral.

"These stories need to be corrected," the statement said, and went on to refute those that had "gained currency" in recent days.

"Stories of disputes between the Royal Family and the Spencer family are false. The funeral arrangements were made in less than a week. Inevitably there were some minor differences over points of detail but these were swiftly and amicably resolved," it read.

"The Queen took decisions in close consultation with the Prince of Wales at Balmoral. Her advisers were in close touch with those of the Prince of Wales and the Prime Minister."

"Suggestions that pressure had to be exerted on the Queen by anyone, including the Prince of Wales, are false. Stories of disagreements and heated conversations between the Prince of Wales and Sir Robert Fellowes (the Queen's private secretary) are equally false."

Although a palace spokesman declined the name specific reports to which it referred, the latter two refutations are believed to refer to claims made by Jon Snow on *Channel 4 News*.

It claimed that Prince Charles had a blazing row with Sir Robert Fellowes, in which Sir Robert was told to "impale himself on his own flagstaff".

It also claimed that Tony Blair had to act as an intermediary between the Royal Family and the Spencers, saying that the Queen had requested that Diana have a low-key, private funeral.

"These stories are the direct opposite of the truth," the palace spokesman said.

Demand outstrips supply for tribute record

Demand for the Elton John song "Candle in the Wind" continued to outstrip supply yesterday as the number of copies pressed and distributed worldwide reached eight million.

The single, which set a record by reaching the top of the British charts on its first day of sale, was disappearing off shelves as fast as stock arrived.

It also became the first-ever single to

go on sale in Israel. Until now the country's relatively small music-buying population meant singles were not viable and the music market was exclusively albums.

But music industry executives decided that the tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales, which is tipped to become the biggest-selling single of all time, was so big that its people should also be given the chance to buy it.

Mercury Records said manufacturers have now pressed enough copies to meet Britain's 1.5 million advance orders – but the re-orders have started to roll in. More singles will be manufactured and shipped today.

Elton John himself has refused to take the credit for the demand and vowed never to perform the song again because it would be "milking" the tragedy.

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Hague fights back against the Tory snipers

William Hague, the Tory leader, last night fought back against sniping from Conservative critics of his leadership, who suggested he lacked experience. Fresh from the Labour landslide, the party is desperate to avoid further disunity. Anthony Bevins and Christian Wolmar report on another day of Tory turmoil.

Mr Hague showed signs of panic last night in response to a sudden deluge of criticism, when he opened up a planned private meeting of Tory activists to the media, bodes who have suddenly scented blood.

He went on the attack after an awful Sunday, in which his broadside on Labour's handling of the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales backfired, and Hugh Dykes, a former Tory MP, defected to the Liberal Democrats.

Speaking to 400 Tory voluntary workers from London and the South East, Mr

Hague made no attempt to retract his remarks. He said that while the Tories would "not oppose just for the sake of opposing" the party would not "shy away from speaking our minds" even if "there are times when blunt speaking offends some people".

But he had clearly been stung by criticism from both within and without the party over his remarks about the funeral. In particular, he seemed to respond to Lord Tebbit's suggestion that he should deal with practical political issues rather than royal matters.

Lord Tebbit intimated that Mr Hague's attack on the Government over Diana's funeral should be put down to inexperience. He said: "One would expect that any leaders would gain discretion with experience and perhaps, if I had been the leader of the party at this time, I would have been going on other issues."

In response, in his evening speech Mr Hague listed a series of betrayals by the Labour government. "Labour asked the British people to trust them with the economy ... What have we got instead? Four mortgage rate hikes ... and 17 tax rises in

Gordoo Brown's very first Budget."

Mr Hague's statement over Diana had earlier prompted outrage from senior Labour figures. Ron Davies, the Secretary of State for Wales, said Mr Hague's behaviour was "disgraceful" and "despicable". A Downing Street spokesman said it was "totally untrue" to say that the Government briefed in any way on any conversations between the Prime Minister and the Queen.

However, Mr Hague did receive some support. Stephen Dorrell, former Secretary of State for Health, said: "What he said yesterday expressed a sense of unease felt by many people about the way that, not the PM himself - I don't accuse him of this - but some of the people around him, have sought to look for party advantage after the events following her death."

The former chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, also defended him despite Mr Dykes's statement that he had left the party because Mr Clarke lost the leadership election to Mr Hague. "We're only a few months into the Parliament and it was bound to be the case that, whoever was leading the opposition, would get into difficulties," he said.



Media star: The MacBunny from Live TV trying to steal the limeight from William Hague, the Tory leader, on a recent anti-devolution campaign visit to Scotland

Photograph: Brian Harris

I'm just William, and jolly fed up too

William slouched disconsolately along the lane, his hands in his pockets. Even his faithful Welsh collie, Jenkins, sensing his master's distress, had stopped bringing him sticks to throw; she trotted discreetly at his heels, head downcast.

By rights, it should have been a wonderful summer for William. The weather had been glorious, Mr and Mrs Hague had relaxed most of their term-time restrictions, allowing him to stay out late in the loog evenings, and - best of all - the Outlaws had now accepted him as their undisputed leader. What more could a boy have wanted? An endless vista of fights, games and adventures had beckoned with him, William, always taking on the most heroic and exciting roles.

But it had all gone horri-

asked Duncan. "A very right-wing one, wot b'lieves in prisons and canes!" suggested Howard. "Woman I know tried that once," objected Cecil, "now oo one's interested in it."

Thinking, William ran his hand through his tousled hair, only to discover that he hadn't got any. When at last he spoke it was with the deliberation of genius unburdening itself. "Fresh. Clear an' Opeol" he pronounced triumphantly. "That's wot people want. They want toothpaste an' deodorant like it, an' TV presenters like it, so I 'spect they'll want political parties like it too."

"Well I've read about politics," said Duncan, "an' they're all goin' on walkabouts, an' meeting the people, an' opposin', so that's what we've got to do. We've got to have a strat'gy." So they had agreed a strat'gy.

And it had gone badly wrong. Only a week later, the Outlaws were giving themselves up to recrimination. "Look modern, you tol' me," said William, bitterly. "So I put on that baseball cap - an' ol' Blair wears a suit an' tie, an' everyone says I look ridiculous, an' he looks prime ministerial. Meet the people, you tol' me. So I met 'em an' met 'em. I met white ones in theme parks, an' I met black ones in Notting Hill, an' I met 'em in Scotland, an' I met 'em in Wales. I kep' on meetin' 'em till my hand hurt. An' they said I was a silly smile on legs. Oppose ol' Blair you said, so I jolly well opposed him, over the Queen an' everything, and now you all say you're fed up."

Duncan, Howard and Cecil nodded glumly. "Well I'm jolly well fed up too!" said William. "An I'd just like to see any of you try leadin' an' see if you can do any better!" There was a brief silence. "Mmm," replied Howard. "I might just take you up on that, William."

bly wroog. The rot had set in who he and the Outlaws had been ousted from the Old Barn by their worst enemies, the Tony Blairites; a group of smart, uncouth, swotish boys from the other side of the village who had taken unfair advantage of a particularly strenuous wrestling match between the Outlaws themselves, to rush in and take over the barn. Since then their exile had weighed heavily upon the Outlaws.

"I know!" William had said one sunny afternoon, as he and his companions had gleefully watched the Blairites gambling in the meadow. "Let's have a political party. We'll campaign, an' oppose an' things. An' then we'll challenge them to an election, and jolly well win!"

Immediately all their spirits lifted. "But what sort of political party should we be?"

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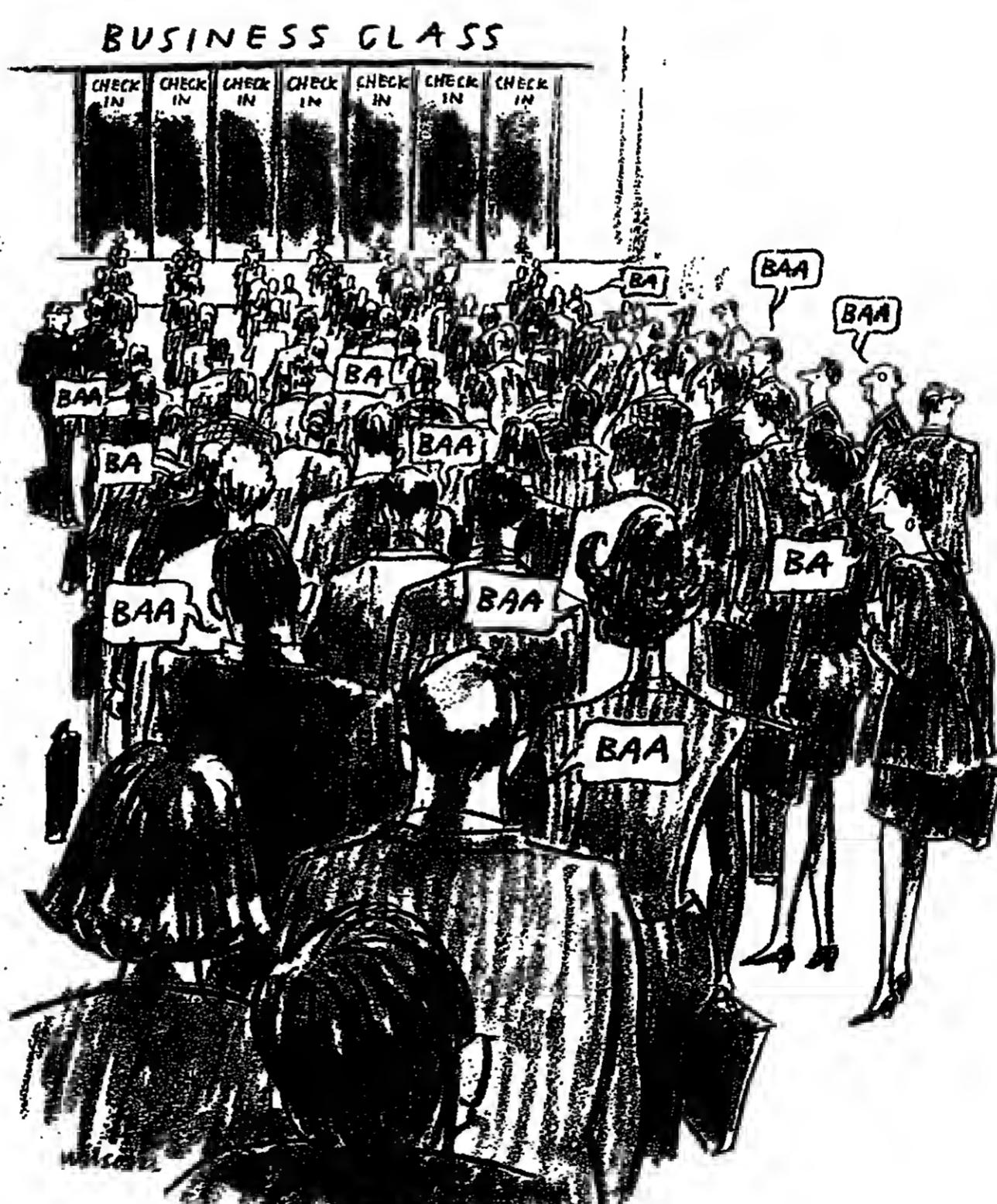
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JOHNSON

Booker list continues an Indian love affair

The shortlist for the Booker Prize, fiction's premier award, was announced yesterday. Big-name novelists such as Ian McEwan and Jeanette Winterson have failed to make the last six, but, as David Lister reports, for debut novelist Arundhati Roy, it is a dream come true.

The love affair between Britain and the narrative sweep of novels from the Indian sub-continent continues with the inclusion of first-time novelist Arundhati Roy on the Booker Prize shortlist.

But Ms Roy's book, a sharp and witty story of a family tragedy resulting from caste conflicts, has a different tone from novelists such as Salman Rushdie and Vikram Seth, and its journey to the shortlist is the stuff of a novel itself.

The shortlist for the £20,000 prize announced yesterday has surprising omissions of big names, including Ian McEwan, Jeanette Winterson and Carole Shields. It contains *Grace Notes* by Bernard MacLaverty, *Quarantine* by Jim Crace, *The Underground* by Mick Jackson, *Europa* by Tim Parks, *The Essence Of Things* by Madeleine St John and *The God Of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy.

A former architecture student and screen writer, Ms Roy was the child of a mixed marriage and the victim of caste prejudice. She spent years living among lepers and social outcasts before achieving sudden fame who she gave a copy of her manuscript to the agent Pankaj Mishra, then a Harper-Collins editor in India. He was so excited that he rang her in the middle of the night.

He then sent a copy to literary agent David Godwin in London and Mr Godwin turned up on Ms Roy's doorstep in India, asking to be her agent. Flamingo, an imprint of HarperCollins, won the auction with an advance of £150,000.

Bookmaker William Hill

said last night: "It looks a wide open list and the omission of Ian

McEwan is the most interesting one since Martin Amis."

Chairwoman of the judges, Professor Gillian Beer, said the panel had read 106 books. "We don't read every word of every book," she said, "but there are only a few where I've been skipping pages."

Discussing the secret of a successful Booker title, she said: "You must want to read on. You must have some sense of a challenge and a distinctive voice should come through. There must be something that engages you and evokes some form of human life ... Whatever it is, it should be intensely there."

Last year's winner was Graham Swift with *Last Orders*, narrowly and surprisingly beating Margaret Atwood's engaging and intensely there novel, *Arias Grace*.

William Hill's Booker odds: 2/1 *Bernard MacLaverty* "Grace Notes"; 3/1 *Jim Crace* "Quarantine"; 7/2 *Arundhati Roy* "The God of Small Things"; 9/2 *Madeleine St John* "The Essence of Things"; 5/1 *Tim Parks* "Europa"; 6/1 *Mick Jackson* "The Underground Man".

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Quarantine by Jim Crace

(Viking)

Europa by Tim Parks

(Secker & Warburg)

The Underground Man by Mick

Jackson (Picador)

The God of Small Things, by

Arundhati Roy (Flamingo)

The Essence of Things, by

Madeleine St John (Fourth

Estate)

Glittering debut: Arundhati Roy's first novel draws on difficult events and experiences from her own life in southern India.

Photograph: Karen Kapoor/Camera Press

THE BOOKER PRIZE SHORTLIST - WHAT THE CRITICS SAID

Grace Notes, by Bernard MacLaverty (Cape)

A young Northern Irish composer's revolt against her family, with hints at the province's traumatic history. In *The Independent*, Patricia Craig praised a very subtle novel which gains its richness from sources far removed from plentiful activity".

Quarantine, by Jim Crace (Viking)

In the Judean wilderness, 2,000 years ago, the young Jesus fasts and watches as, around him, a band of rogues and peasants work through their conflicts. Michael Arditti marvelled at "powers of description as awesome as the landscape he evokes".

Europa, by Tim Parks (Secker & Warburg)

An English language teacher in Italy, who has achieved nothing in love or work, reflects on the spiritual ruins of his life. Nicholas Wroe enjoyed "a thoughtfully rendered book that pushes its humour into ever deeper shades of black".

The Underground Man, by Mick Jackson (Picador)

Based on the true story of a 19th-century Duke of Portland, Jackson's first novel explores the weird inner world of an eccentric aristocrat. Francis Spufford called it "a romance of containers" set in "a malleable region of fantastic events".

The God of Small Things, by Arundhati Roy (Flamingo)

Lyric, tragic-comic novel unfolds against the lush South Indian landscape, where twins come to terms with their mother's doomed cross-cultural love match. Maya Jaggi acclaimed "a remarkably assured debut ... both moving and compelling".

The Essence of Things, by Madeleine St John (Fourth Estate)

Dark horse of the shortlist. An ostensibly happy Notting Hill ménage suddenly falls apart. With a sardonic eye and fierce humour, St John traces a woman's struggle to rebuild her life.

— Boyd Tonkin, Literary Editor

Covent Garden's 'Mr Darcy' is told to leave the stage

Keith Cooper, the Royal Opera House chief whose abrasive manner made him one of the most feared people in the arts, is being moved. David Lister reveals the first move to propel the ROH into the new Labour world of "the people's opera".



Feared: Keith Cooper, who is being moved from his post at the ROH

In the BBC series *The House*, Cooper came across as the JR of Covent Garden. Awestruck viewers, some of whom wrote him fan mail afterwards, watched him sack a box office manager, publicly accuse an employee of lack of intelligence and close the opera house shop. And each time in different designer suit. *Arts Management Weekly* reported that, for women of the chattering classes, Cooper had replaced the suave Mr Darcy of *Pride and Prejudice* as the man they most wanted to reform.

But now the romantic hero is to be removed from the spotlight and given a behind-the-scenes role. His new post will involve the crucial task of thinking up ideas to increase access - relaying performances to multiplexes and holding low-price matinees are two ventures he is keen on. And Chris Smith has warned that he will cut the grant to the opera house if access to it is not increased.

But it is equally apparent that Mary Allen wants a change of image for the institution, fol-

owing a series of high-profile public relations disasters.

These involved not only long-running concern over high ticket prices, but Mrs Alleo's own appointment by her former colleague, and now the opera house chairman, Lord Chaddington, without the shock being advertised; the shock resignation of her predecessor, Genista McIntosh; the use of lottery money to fund redundancies; the failure to find a suitable temporary home during the two-year closure of Covent Garden, and scathing public criticism by a House of Commons select committee.

The Royal Opera House faces two public tests over the coming weeks. Next week, the Royal Ballet opens its new season at the Labatt's Apollo in Hammersmith. Ticket sales have been poor amid fears that the venue lacks sufficient glamour. The company has also been hit by an injury to ballerina Darcie Bussell.

After that, Mary Allen has to appear before the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee along with fund-raiser Vivien Duffield.

MPs are certain to question them about the opera house's image and its alleged failure to attract an audience from all social classes.

For a brief period, his face was better known than some of the star singers and dancers he promoted. But Keith Cooper, head of corporate affairs and the surprise star of the BBC series *The House*, has been told by new ROH chief executive, Mary Allen, that he will no longer be the public face and voice of Covent Garden.

Instead, Cooper will be concentrating on marketing strategies and increasing access to the ROH in the wake of demands by Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, for it to become "the people's opera".

Cooper's old role of heading the opera house's press relations and being its public spokesman will be advertised next week.

Galleries given time to raise £9m to save Van Gogh

British art galleries and collectors were yesterday given two months to raise £9m and prevent a watercolour by Vincent Van Gogh, *Harvest in Provence*, from being exported and disappearing into a private collection in the United States.

The watercolour was described as the most important work on paper by Van Gogh, still in private hands, when it was sold by Sotheby's in London last June. The £2.8m paid by an anonymous bidder on the telephone set an auction price record for a work on paper by the Dutch artist.

It appeared the watercolour, depicting a scene outside Arles in Provence, was about to go abroad after 70 years in an Eng-

lish private collection. But Mark Fisher, the arts minister, yesterday deferred a decision on an export licence for the work.

Though Sotheby's has not disclosed the identity of the buyer, it is rumoured to be an American collector. Had it been a gallery, Mr Fisher, and the experts of the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art, might have taken a different view, as at least the painting would go on public view. A decision on the export licence will be deferred until after 12 November, and if serious interest emerges, it could be put back again to 12 March 1998.

David Barrie, director of the National Art Collection Fund, the leading art char-

ity, said the deferral offered an opportunity to ensure that a major work did not disappear from public view. "This is undoubtedly one of the finest watercolours by Van Gogh and adds substantially to our appreciation of Van Gogh's technique and approach." It is the original version of the famous oil, known as *La Charrue Bleue*.

The watercolour was formerly owned by the distinguished London collector, Mrs JBA Kessler, who purchased it in 1924. The most likely British purchaser would be the Tate Gallery in London, which already has four Van Goghs, given by Mrs Kessler's uncle, Frank Stoop.

— Stephen Goodwin

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Unionists set for place at peace table

Unionist parties stayed away from the opening of all-party peace talks in Belfast.

But, as David McKittrick, Ireland Correspondent, reports, it is only a matter of time before they join in.

The Northern Ireland peace process notched up another little increment of history yesterday as multi-party talks opened at Stormont with Sinn Féin at the table.

It was not, however, the in-

clusive occasion which the British and Irish governments had hoped for, since a Protestant boycott of the proceedings turned Stormont into a Unionist-free zone for the day.

But both governments have high hopes that David Trimble's Ulster Unionists and other loyalists will make their entry soon, possibly as early as today, thus bringing mainstream Unionists and the republican movement into the same process for the first time ever.

Former US senator George Mitchell called a plenary session of the talks to order at 2pm yesterday, with Sinn Féin and four other parties arrayed around the



large conference table. The chairs set aside for five Unionist parties were empty.

At that moment Mr Trimble was eating soup and a roll in a Belfast city centre café, affect-

ing not to notice the five television camera-crews capturing his every movement. The exercise seemed to be a studied show of nonchalance in the face of mounting pressure to go

to the talks, and a determination not to be dragged to the table prematurely.

Instead of attending at Stormont he made arrangements to meet Mr Mitchell later in a

nearby hotel, rather than going to Stormont, for discussions on what he described as "the precise procedural arrangements for our involvement".

The two governments have

Republicans parade the Irish Tricolour yesterday as the multi-party talks opened in Belfast with Sinn Féin at the table. Photograph: David Rose

the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern. This both emphasised the principle of consent and affirmed that the two governments saw the resolution of the arms decommissioning issue as an indispensable part of the process of negotiation.

Although the Unionist party would have much preferred the word "mandatory" to "indispensable", it regarded the statement as representing a useful advance on the governments' positions.

Later, Paul Murphy, minister for political development, went to Unionist party headquarters for talks with Mr Trimble and others.

From parties within the talks came criticism of the Unionists, the Social Democratic and Labour Party speaking dismissively of "contrived drama". Monica McWilliams of the Women's Coalition said: "It is

boys playing war and I am sorry about it. We have one more year to put this thing right and the time is now and today."

Mark Durkan of the SDLP said: "We don't want to make things difficult for David Trimble. If there are things needed to give him and the Ulster Unionists a few more cushions to make them comfortable sitting with Sinn Féin, okay. If however they're looking to change the furniture and the architecture of the place then that's a different matter."

He said: "We do think this could be the beginning of the end of conflict on this island." Of the Unionists he said: "If they are not here today they will be here tomorrow, or the day after or the day after - and the sooner the better for everyone."

This was just one item on a

hectic political schedule aimed

primarily at easing the Unionists' path to the table. The chief element was a joint statement from

Prime Minister Tony Blair and

his talks team.

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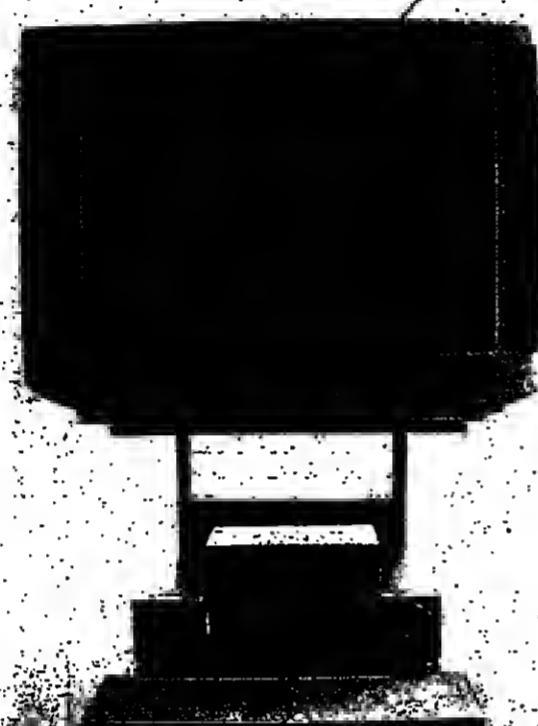
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Pakistan asks for Benazir asset freeze

At the request of the Pakistan government, Switzerland has frozen bank accounts held in the country by Benazir Bhutto and her family. As Rupert Cornwell reports, the events are the latest development in a year-long corruption investigation of the former prime minister, which is bound to increase already deep political tensions in Pakistan.

According to senior officials in Islamabad, the Pakistani authorities are trying to block accounts they claim were held by the Bhuttos in no less than nine countries, including Britain and France, and totalling between \$50m (£31m) and \$80m in Switzerland alone.

In Berne, the Swiss Federal Office of Police Affairs described the measure as "provisional and preventative," taken at the request of another government. But in Islamabad an exultant Seifur Rehman, a senior official in charge of the corruption probe, hailed the Swiss action as "a milestone" in efforts to build a watertight case against the Bhuttos.

Mr Rehman said the accounts, believed to be held in four Geneva banks including the local subsidiary of Barclays, Barclays Bank (Suisse) SA, belonged to Ms Bhutto, her husband Asif Ali Zardari, her mother Begum Nusrat Bhutto, and her father-in-law Hakim Ali Zardari. "The royal couple made billions overnight by underhand deals," Mr Rehman angrily charged at a press conference. At the same time he produced bank statements and other documents purporting to show that the accounts contained kickbacks paid for commercial concessions handed out by the family before Ms Bhutto was sacked as prime minister in November 1996.

"They tailored rules and regulations and altered policies and procedures," he went on, accusing the family of setting up a web of offshore companies to channel money into the foreign accounts. But Ms Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) branded the allegations "a sheer lie," and part of a "blitz of char-

acter assassination" against her and Mr Zardari.

Swiss spokesman said the request had come in a fax on 8 September from Islamabad, and that relevant accounts and safe deposit boxes had been blocked the same day. In London a Foreign Office spokesman refused to say whether the British government had received a similar request.

The anti-corruption probe against the Bhuttos was intensified when her longstanding political foe Nawaz Sharif became prime minister in February. Three months earlier Ms Bhutto was sacked amid charges of corruption and misrule and her husband was thrown into jail, charged with involvement in the death of her brother Mirza, who had broke with Benazir, and was killed in a shootout with police in September 1996.

The next step will be submission of the evidence against the Bhuttos to Pakistan's government watchdog commissioner and to the courts, who will decide on any arrests. Mr Rehman said, he would give the commissioner a further 30 police reports linking Ms Bhutto and her husband to corruption cases during her time in power between 1994 and 1996.

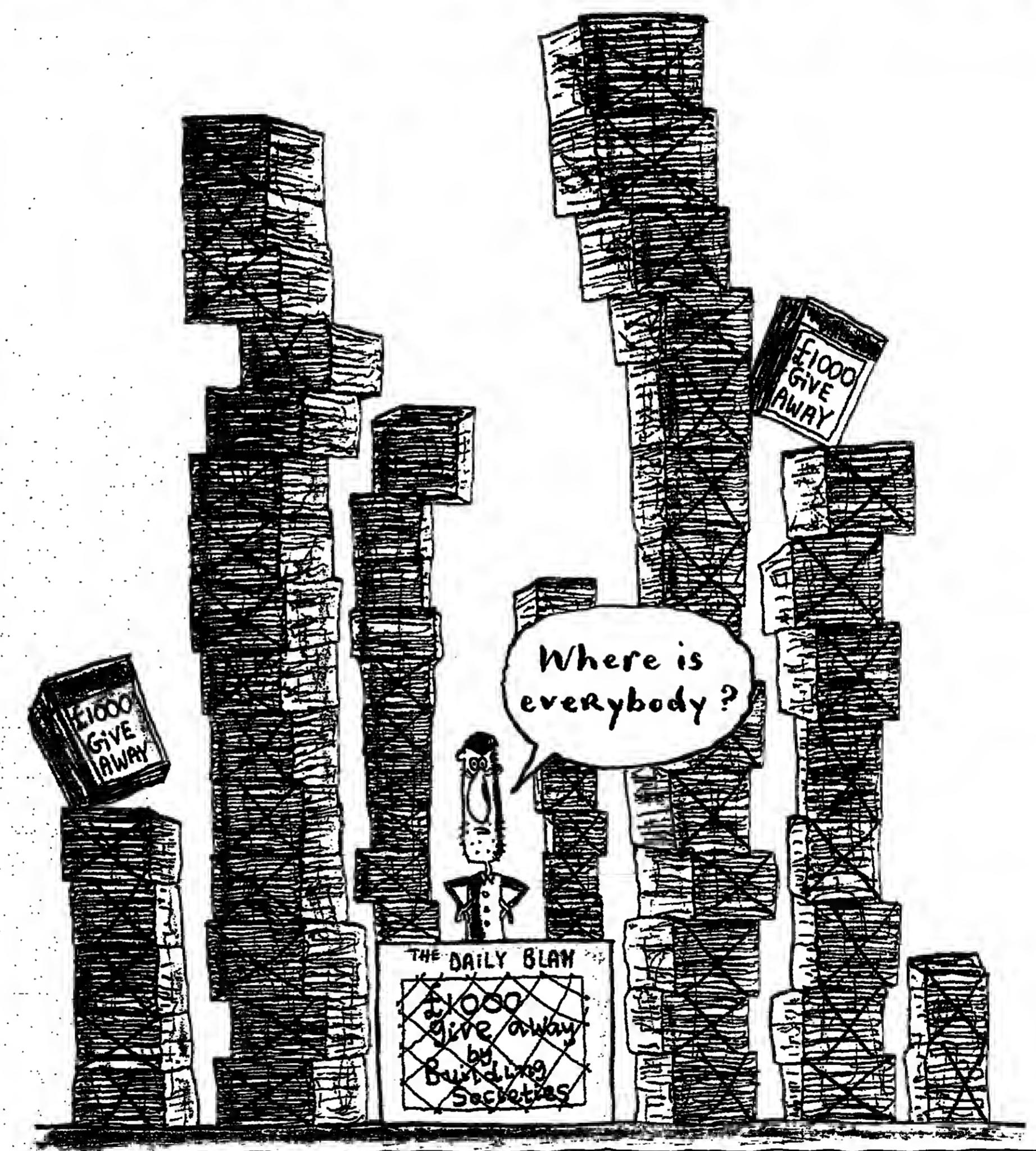
In Berne, officials gave no word on how much the suspect accounts contained. But they have told Pakistan it must make a formal request for legal assistance and provide more documentary support for the accusations within three months. At that point the Swiss authorities will decide whether to take the matter further.

The pursuit of Ms Bhutto as well as her husband dims hopes of a political comeback by Benazir, after the PPP's disastrous showing in the last election in which it won just 17 of 217 seats in parliament. According to associates she had recently made up her mind to abandon her husband — not only because of mounting evidence he had been behind her brother's murder, but because association with a man reviled as "Mr 30 per cent" was a deadly drag on her political ambitions.

Apart from Barclays, the other three banks named by Mr Rehman were the Union Bank of Switzerland, Citibank Switzerland and Cantrade Ormond Burroughs Privee.



The corruption allegations against Ms Bhutto have dimmed hopes of a political comeback following her party's disastrous showing in this year's elections



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Senator loses his battle with redneck Jesse Helms

The best summer drama on offer in Washington, an interminable Republican clash pitting brat against beast, concluded yesterday with victory for Jesse Helms, the senator from North Carolina, over William Weld, a Harvard-educated classics scholar and former governor of Massachusetts.

Mr Weld quit his post as Governor after President Clinton nominated him for the job of ambassador to Mexico. But yesterday, Senator Helms, the hard-right chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, refused to grant Mr Weld a confirmation hearing. Mr Weld, who vowed four weeks ago to wage "a land war, if need be" against Senator Helms, threw in the towel.

Mr Helms' stated reason for opposing Mr Weld's appointment was that the former governor, who supports the medical use of marijuana, could not be counted upon to conduct the war against drugs with vigour. The real reason, observers say, is that Mr Weld has made no secret of his belief that Senator Helms is an ignorant redneck, woefully unsuited to one of the most powerful foreign policy positions in Washington.

Plea to reopen the verdict on Tiananmen protest

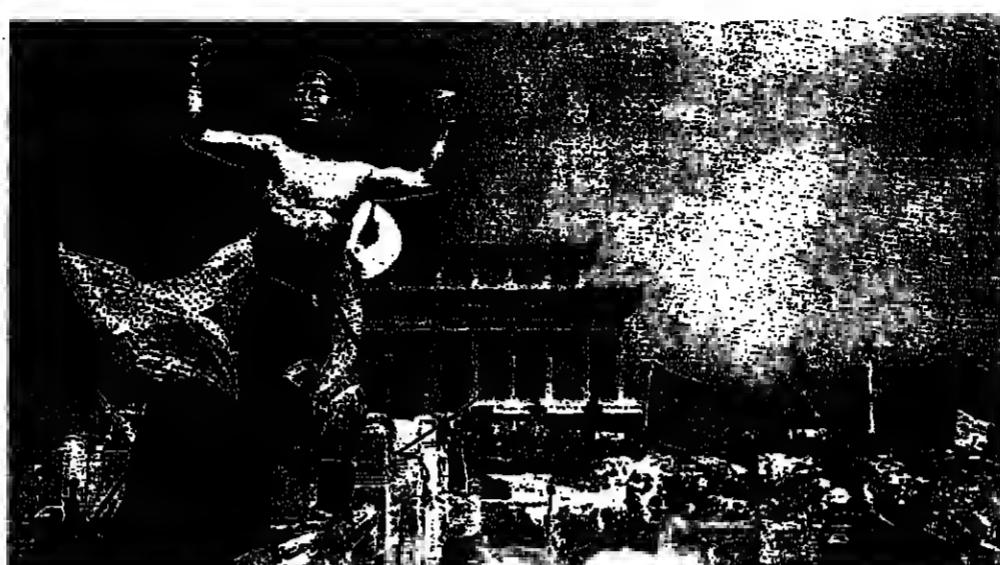
The top Chinese politician purged after Tiananmen Square demonstrations has savaged the official verdict which branded the student-led protests as a "counter-revolutionary rebellion". A forlorn appeal from a forgotten man, or a glimmer of political change in China? Teresa Poole studies the latest twist in what is still the most sensitive political issue in China.

Zhao Ziyang, now a white-haired 78-year-old, made his last appearance on 19 May 1989 when he tearfully visited the students in Tiananmen Square and tried to persuade them to go home. Since then he has been living under virtual house arrest. In February this year he was refused permission to attend the funeral of his former mentor, China's late patriarch Deng Xiaoping.

Mr Zhao remains a popular figure in most ordinary Pekingers' consciousness, a man who represents an era of relative political openness in the mid-1980s, when the possibility of change reaching beyond the economic sphere was briefly alive. In 1989, he was the ultimate victim of a vicious internal power struggle in the Chinese Communist Party between fellow liberals and hardliners who wanted to roll back the Deng reforms. His was the scalp that Mr Deng provided in order to safeguard the programme to modernise the economy.

The two-and-a-half page typed letter which yesterday found its way to the Reuters news agency was dated 12 September 1997 and ended with Mr Zhao's typed name, but there was no handwritten signature. If authentic, it represents the first direct political move by Mr Zhao in eight years, and a most blunt demand for the verdict to be rewritten.

"No matter how radical, wrong and blameworthy



High hopes: Zhao attacked suppression of protesters

Photograph: Stuart Franklin/Magnum

the students' movement was, to call it a 'counter-revolutionary rebellion' was groundless. And if it was not a counter-revolutionary rebellion, it should not have been solved by means of military suppression," the letter reads. Unknown hundreds of people are believed to have died when troops were sent in to clear the demonstration.

Mr Zhao said the bloodshed could have been avoided. "It was well-known that the request of the majority of the students then was to punish corruption and accelerate political reform, not to overthrow the Communist Party or subvert the nation," he wrote.

There was no independent confirmation of whether the letter had come directly from Mr Zhao. It was sent to the 15th Communist Party Congress

on Friday, the opening day. No China analyst expects Mr Zhao to make a political comeback, but he could re-emerge as a very disruptive influence for a party desperate to present a picture of unity.

The question of the Tiananmen Square verdict is the last issue which China's leaders want on the agenda at this juncture. This is the congress at which President Jiang Zemin, who is also general secretary of the party, is determined to establish himself as the *primum inter pares* for the post-Deng era.

Mr Jiang was not directly involved in the decision to send in the troops to Tiananmen Square, but his sudden elevation to party chief in 1989 was as a result of the deposing of Mr Zhao, who until then had been Mr Deng's anointed successor.

US offers compromise on global landmine ban

In a major reversal, the United States has offered to sign a global treaty banning landmines under a compromise that would allow an additional nine years before the ban takes effect, US officials said yesterday. But they said negotiations in Oslo were nearing the end game and it was not at all clear if the compromise would be accepted. "A compromise has been offered that would be nine years from signature," one said. Countries could elect to defer implementing the ban on deploying new landmines for nine years from signing the treaty, which is expected to be signed in December. Negotiators had discussed a two-year phase-in period. The official stressed that the compromise of nine years was the same period that existed under an earlier convention on conventional weapons that regulated landmines.

Until this weekend, when it told allies of its new position, the US had said it could not sign any treaty that limited its ability to use anti-personnel landmines to defend South Korea from an attack from the North. But officials said pressure had been building in favour of the treaty, forcing the proposal. — Reuters

Poison levels in dairy foods

Disturbing levels of the poison dioxin have been discovered in some French dairy products, according to the newspaper *Le Monde*. Although the quantities identified are far below the accepted danger level, some are higher than the limits recommended by the Council of Europe. One of the milk-producing areas worst affected, apparently by atmospheric pollution from surrounding industry, is the Pas-de-Calais, just across the Channel from Kent.

According to *Le Monde*, a study commissioned by the French agriculture ministry — and never published — found significant levels of dioxin in 19 out of 40 samples taken in 34 French départements. The Council of Europe recommends that dioxin in dairy products should remain below 1 picogram per gram of fat. Above 5 picograms, the products must be removed from the market. Most of the samples showed dioxin levels at just below or just over 1 picogram. Two findings in the Pas-de-Calais and Seine Maritime were above 3 picograms.

The French Ministry of Agriculture said it regarded the results as "acceptable". Most of the findings were close to the "target" set by the Council of Europe, it said.

Albright sees hope for Cyprus talks

Lamaca, Cyprus (Reuters) — The Greek Cypriot President, Glafcos Clerides, and the Turkish Cypriot leader, Rauf Denktash, plan to meet soon to discuss security issues linked to the dispute dividing the island, the United States Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, said yesterday.

"This is a substantial step. The environment of tension, threat, and counter-threat has been going on in Cyprus for far too long," Mrs Albright said during a brief stopover in Cyprus after completing a Middle East tour.

She said that Mr Clerides and Mr Denktash expressed their willingness to meet Tom Miller, the new US State Department co-ordinator for Cyprus who had contacts with the two leaders yesterday. No date for the talks was specified.

Mrs Albright spent about 30 minutes in Cyprus after a visit to Lebanon. She then boarded a jet to return to Washington. She did not meet any Cypriot officials.

Author takes swipe at male fragility

Washington (Reuters) — Best-selling Chilean writer Isabel Allende has turned to sex and food for her next work — a recipe book to stimulate the love lives of her readers.

The aphrodisiacs, concocted with the help of her 76-year-old mother, will appear next month in Spain under the title *Aphrodite*. "It's a book about sex and food," Allende said during a visit to the US capital. "It's a male problem, really. Women have no interest in aphrodisiacs, which have their origin in the fragility of the male organ. It is given names of tools and weapons, and even said to have supernatural powers, but in fact it fits inside a tin of sardines."

The author of *The House of the Spirits* said she had experienced the pain of her daughter's death in her last book, *Paula*, and had recovered her inspiration and her humour. She is working on a historical novel and the Sundance Institute is preparing a film script based on her collection of stories called *Eva Luna*.

Top Russian politician under death threat

Death threats have acquired a grim plausibility in post-Soviet Russia, where hundreds of business executives have been killed in the scramble for the nation's spoils. So the Kremlin had no choice yesterday but to sharply tighten security around one of their most powerful and least popular officials, Anatoly Chubais.

Aides to Mr Chubais, one of the top three in the Yeltsin administration, said that the Russian security services had received a tip-off of a possible plot to kill him.

The First Deputy Prime Minister has long been a hate-figure for millions of Russians, who blame him for bungling the privatisation of much of the Soviet Union's industries during the early 1990s. But he is also at the centre of a new conflict — a split within the ranks of the media barons and business moguls who rallied around President Boris Yeltsin last year but are now scrambling for their share of booty in the latest round of state sell-offs. This erupted into the open in July.

Anatoly Chubais: Plot with the sale of a stake in the giant state telecoms holding company, Svyazinvest. It went to the highest bidder — a consortium led by Vladimir Potanin, a multi-millionaire banker. But some of the losers were furious. Leading the outcry was Boris Berezovsky, a media mogul who bankrolled Mr Yeltsin's election campaign.

This weekend, *Nekrasovskaya Gaveta*, which is part of his business empire, launched an attack on Mr Chubais, accusing him of Lenin-like despotism. — Phil Reeves

Skeleton Coast crash one in a million

Washington — Two military planes which disappeared on Sunday probably collided in mid-air over the south Atlantic off Namibia and there were no signs yesterday that any of the 33 people on board survived.

A senior American air force official said it appeared "most likely" that the US military cargo plane and a German transport plane were involved in a mid-air collision on Sunday night.

Major General Greg Gile, director of operations at the US Atlantic Command, said that the two planes, whose flight paths intersected over the cold waters off Namibia's Skeleton Coast, had gone missing at about the same time in the same air space.

The South African air force was yesterday heading an extensive search and rescue mission but no survivors were

found. A Namibian fishing vessel reported sighting what appeared to be pieces of wreckage from the German plane, a Russian-built Tupolev that used to belong to the East German air force. The vessel picked up part of an aeroplane seat and papers in German.

The German plane was trans-

were made known yesterday to their relatives in the US. The C-141, heading in an easterly direction, was carrying cargo from Ascension Island, a British possession, to Namibia.

While some of the blame is likely to fall on the air traffic controllers from South Africa, Angola and Namibia who jointly monitor air space in that part of the South Atlantic, it nevertheless appears to have been an extraordinary, one-in-a-million misfortune that the two aircraft should have collided.

● Washington — The US Air Force said it had temporarily grounded its fleet of F-117A stealth fighters following the spectacular air show crash of one of the little bat-wing planes near Baltimore on Sunday. The service stressed there was no indication of any problem with other F-117s, all based at a base in New Mexico.

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13/BATTLE FOR JERUSALEM

THE INDEPENDENT
TUESDAY
6 SEPTEMBER 1997

Jewish settlers take over Palestinian houses

Jewish settlers moved overnight into Ras al-Amoud, a Palestinian district of Jerusalem. The move kills any chance of co-operation between Israel and the Palestinians to stop suicide bombers and increases the chance of fresh bombings. Patrick Cockburn reports a move certain to provoke a new crisis over the city.

"We came here with 15 people to settle and 40 supporters to live here peacefully," says Ronn Torossian, spokesman for the Jewish settlers who had just taken over a large house in Ras al-Amoud, a district in which live 11,000 Palestinians. Mr Torossian, 23, formerly from the Bronx in New York and waving an Israeli flag, said that his group would be taking over other houses in the neighbourhood in due course. He admitted some of the settlers were armed, adding: "There cannot be peace with [Yasser] Arafat. There cannot be peace with the Arabs who want to kill the Jews."

The takeover of two houses – one a large villa and the other a small office – within sight of the Muslim shrines of al-Aqsa and the Dome of the Rock, appears to have been timed by the settlers to sink any hope of further peace negotiations between Israel and Palestinians. Many of their cars bore the stickers "Save Israel – Stop Oslo Now."

Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, said yesterday that the Israeli

men had the legal right to stop the takeover on overall security grounds it had not done so. Batya Klein, 22, one of the settlers, said: "We told the police what we were going to do early yesterday morning."

Palestinians in Ras al-Amoud were either dejected or enraged. Ali Hamdullah, a truck driver, lives in a large white house 100 yards from the settlers' new villa. Although he was born in the house in 1956 the courts have been trying to evict him on the grounds that it was illegally constructed half a century ago. He said: "I was waiting here last night to see if a settler would try to come and take my house. If he did I would have killed him and then they would have killed me."

The man who financed the purchase of the houses taken over by settlers this week as well as a further 3.5 acres of Ras al-Amoud is Irving Moskowitz, an American multi-millionaire whose wealth comes from private hospitals and one of the world's bigger bingo parlours in Long Beach, California. Batya Klein said the three settler families rented from Dr Moskowitz, whom she described as "a warm and friendly man".

The settlers said they had paid Palestinians who were renting the property for vacant possession. But at both houses there were disconsolate groups of Palestinians who said they had just been evicted. Imad Hamad, 30, who kept a bus and a mini-bus on land which had also been taken over said: "People who really own things don't



Property rights: Palestinians throwing stones at Jewish settlers in Ras al-Amoud yesterday

Photograph: Reuters

PROFILE OF IRVING MOSKOWITZ

Miami millionaire who funds the settlements

The takeover of houses in Ras al-Amoud was funded by Dr Irving Moskowitz, an American multi-millionaire living in Miami. He once said he wants "to do everything I possibly can to help reclaim Jerusalem for the Jewish people".

He made his money from private hospitals and a bingo parlour in Long Beach, California. He usually acts through an organisation called Ateret Cohanim (Crown of Priests) dedicated to Judaizing the older parts of Jerusalem, where it has installed 600 settlers. Over the



government did not approve of the takeover. His office said that it had known about it only a short time before it happened. But the settlers were sure that Mr Netanyahu was with them in spirit. Mr Torossian said: "He knew what we were doing. He supports building in Jerusalem."

The settlers' move into Ras al-Amoud is also a sharp rebuff to Madeleine Albright, the United States Secretary of State, who last week directly called in a speech in Jerusalem for a "time out" on further Jewish settlements. She also appeared to have persuaded Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, to arrest over 100 alleged members of Hamas, the Islamic militant organisation which is believed by Israel to have sent the suicide bombers who have killed Israelis in two attacks.

Inside the villa, now decorated with Israeli flags and defended by about 50 paramilitary police, there was a mood of jubilation. Although the govern-

come like thieves in the middle of the night." He pointed to where the settlers had used a tow-truck to rip up one of his gateposts out of the concrete.

Danny Seidemann, a lawyer for some of the Ras al-Amoud residents, said it was wrong for Mr Netanyahu to say his legal options were limited. "The government and the police had an absolute right to stop this on general security grounds under a ruling by the attorney general in 1991." He said: "This will make Jerusalem like Hebron, a city of hate. It isn't a level playing field on property rights since Palestinians have had one third of their land in the city expropriated."

Benny Elion, a member of the Knesset (parliament) from the radical right, speaking outside the seized villa, agreed that the legal technicalities do not matter. He said when Ras al-Amoud becomes a larger settlement it will stop Palestinians ever claiming even part of Jerusalem as their capital. He added: "This is not a debate. This is a war."



News Release

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As the conkers fall, France has a lesson for our schools

Just as in Britain, the new school year in France has produced heated exchanges about the plans for educational reform. But the French, with a tradition of centralised, old-fashioned schooling, seem to be heading in the opposite direction to us - they want more creativity and less control. So what is going on? Do they know something we don't? Our correspondent, with a young son at school in Paris, investigates.

France is a country of immutable rhythms. The grapes are being harvested, conkers are falling, unheeded, from the trees, children are back at school and the education minister is threatening to reform the French education system.

The new school year has started with another ritual debate: are school satchels too heavy? French schoolchildren, like bag-ladies, tend to carry all their possessions with them. The chic item this autumn, for boys and girls alike, is the wheelie-satchel, which resembles the overnight bag popularised by flight attendants.

Charlie, aged 7, has been advised by his school-friends that when you reach the heights of his new class - CE1, or the second year of primary school proper - it is no longer cool to wear your satchel on your back. If your parents refuse to provide you with wheels, you must carry your huge bag in your hand, with the correct degree of pained insouciance.

Now that he has moved up one class, the iron grip of the French education system is beginning to tighten on Charlie. School for seven- and eight-year-olds consists of the five Rs: reading, writing, arithmetic, religion and running around the playground. There is little art and no geography or history. Reading starts later in France. Charlie already reads perfectly in English. But in French he and his French classmates remain at a basic level. "Toto the snail has hay-fever." (Lucky Toto, you might say, if it saves him from being eaten in garlic.)

The school day is composed mostly of copying from the blackboard, and dictation to improve the pupils' handwriting, spelling and grammar. Creative writing is unknown. Project work exists only on the re-

ligious lessons, where Charlie and his classmates are studying the life of Mother Teresa. (Diana, Princess of Wales, whose fatal car accident occurred a half mile from the school, also received an honourable mention from the teacher.)

Charlie goes to a Catholic, and therefore private school, but one under contract to the state and generously subsidised, in return for obedience to the national curriculum. The time when education ministers knew exactly what each child in France was studying at each hour of the day is long gone. But much - almost certainly too much - remains controlled from the centre.

The French attitude to the French education system is like the British attitude to the British justice system; a simultaneous belief that it is the best in world and ridiculed with failings. The most common criticism is that the emphasis on the basics, and the reliance on rote learning, produces minds which are literate, well-informed but lacking in initiative and creativity. A survey last week suggested that some schools

Mr Allègre is one of most interesting members of the new government; a jovial, irascible man who, unusually for a French politician, or politicians anywhere, speaks with both humour and common sense. Though not young - he is 60 - Mr Allègre is one of the most new-Labourish of ministers in Lionel Jospin's government, and the closest personally to Jospin himself.

In the space of a couple of days, he criticised the high level of absenteeism by teachers in state schools and their habit of awarding themselves training days in term-time, even though they have the shortest teaching year in the EU. Within a week of the *rentrée des classes*, a senior teacher at one of the snobbiest state lycées in Paris informed his pupils that he would be away for two weeks on a pottery course.

The teaching unions screamed at Mr Allègre, but the substance of his remarks was clear. Unlike other education ministers - especially Socialist education ministers - he would not be held in the corporatist vice of the cosy relationship between the education ministry and the education profession.

Plans are being made to arrange a meeting in Paris shortly between Mr Allègre and his British counterpart, David Blunkett. One can imagine the two men getting on well, even though, in some respects, they are facing in opposite directions.

Mr Blunkett is pursuing the movement towards basic disciplines and accountability in British schools and away from the looser, and more imaginative, approaches which became common in the 1970s and 1980s.

Mr Allègre's aim is to reduce the Paris-controlled, curriculum-led, predictability of French education and to allow schools, and teachers, more freedom.

Both men could be right. In theory, France and Britain could converge on an approach which preserves the best of both systems: encouraging more creativity in France and more drilling in the basic skills in Britain.

Charlie did not thrive in a British system which plunged him into creative writing projects (*The Ancient Egyptians*; the Blitz) before he even knew how to form his letters properly.

In France his powers of concentration and his hand-writing have been miraculously improved. But he is beginning to be unimpressed by the health problems of Toto the Snail.

BY JOHN
LICHFIELD

were not even delivering the basics very well; it found that in 10 young French people presenting themselves for induction for national service could not read properly.

The other criticism is that the system is over-administered, too centrally directed and too much under the chalky thumb of the teaching unions. In other words schools in France are run for the benefit of bureaucrats and teachers, not pupils.

This, in essence, is the view of Claude Allègre, the son of a teacher, a former university professor and administrator, and now the Socialist minister for education. Even before the left won the general election in June, Mr Allègre announced that his ambition was to "get the fat off the mammoth" of the French education system. He plans to reduce the number of directorates in the vast education ministry from 19 to 10 and to transfer surplus officials to university and local school administrations. The aim is to promote local and regional decision-making and to give teachers more sense of independence and initiative.

The school day is composed mostly of copying from the blackboard, and dictation to improve the pupils' handwriting, spelling and grammar. Creative writing is unknown. Project work exists only on the re-



By the book: A page from the *Madeline* traditional French storybook series. Children in France are subjected to a far more traditional regime than their UK counterparts

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THE INDEPENDENT
IT'S CHANGED. HAVE YOU?

small children, some as young as three and four, are now being given daily sessions of psychoanalysis. Over the top? Certainly not, say the analysts. *Vicky Wallace* reports on children who talk quite naturally about all sorts of things that they wouldn't mention a few years later.

In the waiting room of the Anna Freud Centre in Hampstead, north London, alongside the *New Yorkers* and *Elles*, are the *Giants* of *Fairy Stories* and *Richard Scarry*. Outside, in the hardwood splendour of the hall, a man in a bright shirt and sensible sandals is running with a plump little girl on the stairs. "You can't keep hitting people," she says, as a plastic pencil case comes flying down. "It doesn't get you anywhere."

London is the therapy capital of Britain but here in Maresfield Gardens, a few doors away from the Freud Museum, it is adults who come to talk over their worries and examine their inner selves, but small children. The Anna Freud Centre was started by Sigmund Freud's daughter during the Second World War to care for children traumatised by the Blitz. Now it offers psychological services to children and their families and has some 50 children having long-term treatment of up to two years, half of them coming four or five times a week for psychoanalysis. The youngest patients are three years old.

The response to this tends to be that whether or not there's anything wrong with these children, the parents must be mad. Who in their right mind would impose the tyranny of a daily therapy session on a preschool? But the centre's director, Julia Fabricius, says that tiny children make ideal candidates for full-time psychoanalysis. "I would like to see more of the underives," she says. "They end up coming at eight or nine. But a year when you're four is better than three years when you're nine. All sorts of things that we don't talk about: later life - sex, death, babies - a small child talks about just like that."

Julia Fabricius, herself a Freudian analyst, is attuned to the inner world of small children. In the consulting room, she has been Seltsed to her chair (by a little girl who had suffered a lot of losses) and didn't want her to go on holiday), regularly gets down on all fours to play complicated games of under-and-over, and has come to be known as a babbler and dabbler, a guru who



ILLUSTRATION: ROBIN CHEVALIER

Children on the couch: Is three the perfect age to meet your shrink?

wouldn't speak. You're trying to give the child a space which is safe in every way," she says. "Where all sorts of things can be expressed, and gradually be understood."

Upstairs, in the centre's consulting rooms, there are small couches. But children tend not to lie on them. They bounce on them, or pull off the cushions to construct castles or fortresses. "It's a way of expressing their behaviour," says Julia Fabricius. "Children therapy is done in childish ways - through the media of paint and Plasticine and water. Children are allowed to make a mess in their 50-minute sessions. It's important for them to see, says a senior child therapist, Rose Edgcumbe, that mess is all right, that it can exist, then be cleared up. It sends them a message."

And their play informs the therapist. "You get a clear, amazingly little bit of behaviour that tell you more about the child than

Rose Edgcumbe. "You get a sense of what worries the child and what he does about it. Up to the age of five or six, the child may instantly start playing out stories. Then the curtains start coming down."

Full psychoanalysis for children is at the pinnacle of a range of services the centre offers families who are struggling with their relationships. So far this year, 99 people have approached the support service where par-

ents can talk over their worries with a trained child therapist, and 15 children displaying various degrees of distress are enrolled in the centre's nursery. Only a small minority of the troubled children assessed are advised to embark on full therapy.

Edgcumbe, "They can understand that abused or neglected children may have difficulties, but they don't expect it of ordinary children in ordinary families."

There was no obvious reason why Chloe Goodman (not her real name) by the age of three didn't sleep, wouldn't feed herself and was reluctant to socialise with other children at nursery school. The nursery suggested an educational psychologist but her mother took Chloe for assessment at the Anna Freud Centre, where staff recommended full psychoanalysis. "I panicked," says Deborah Goodman. "I think because it was five days a week. I was shocked. But that's how they work with children, to build a relationship and give continuity."

Mrs Goodman didn't discuss her daughter's intensive therapy with friends. "I found that the response is that people are very scared to see that they may have a part to play in their children's development. They would rather the child was diagnosed with an illness than with an emotional difficulty."

"Colin has had a very ... His early life was very ... his grandmother says. The words never quite materialise. She has looked after him for the past three years."

But the little boy was slow to speak, and cautious with other children. He was very, very good - except when he had violent temper tantrums. Despite being bright, he couldn't colour in a picture or write his name. "It all pointed to a lack of confidence and a bit of insecurity," says Nancy Osborn. "They consulted me and his mother, and felt maybe he could do with a bit of help."

How did she explain it to the child?

"They call her a special friend. They don't say you're going to have psychoanalysis, just that you're going each day to talk and play." Sometimes Colin didn't want to go but they stuck with it, going four days a week for two years. His grandmother is sure it was worth it. "He seems such a well-balanced, well-adjusted child, and such a nice companion," she says. "But I think if we hadn't had that help, he would have been more anxious and insecure. Quite definitely I can say that therapy has helped him." Colin is now doing well in a mainstream school.

The process of psychoanalysis with children - as with adults - involves the analyst reflecting the patient's view of the world back to them, but with more light let in. Children, like adults, can be helped to understand themselves, says Julia Fabricius. "A lot of people do not know what they're feeling. Just to be able to know it and name it is a great gain. If you can go farther and understand what you are feeling it, so much the better."

In Colin's case, the main causes of his disturbance seem fairly clear. But it is not always the case. "People tend to think that small children are happy," says Rose

DR PHIL HAMMOND

We can't tell how often they do it or whether they're any good at it

"Hello, the Infirmary." "Hello, who am I speaking to?" "Switchboard." "Could you be a bit more specific?" "Maureen on switchboard." "Hello Maureen. My name's ..." "And?" "Well, I've been referred to Mr Bryton for my periods ..." "Just putting you through." "Stop. I don't want to be put through. I want your opinion."

VITAL SIGNS

Meat rations

Scientists appointed to advise the Government on the nation's diet are preparing to issue a new warning about the risks of eating red meat. Members of the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy (COMA) will recommend that people should eat a maximum of 40g (5oz) of cooked meat a day, equivalent to almost half a pound of the raw product. Although average daily red meat consumption is half this level, at 5g a day, they say the 15 per cent of the population who eat the largest quantities have a

higher incidence of stomach and bowel cancers.

Silence kills

An information service on bowel cancer is launched today, aimed at cutting the 49 deaths a day from the disease which is Britain's second biggest killer cancer. The service, InfoLine, is staffed by volunteers from the charity Colon Cancer Concern. Anne Keatley-Carrie, chief executive, said: "Bowel cancer is still the least talked about cancer. If caught early, over 80 per cent of cases are curable; but

knows what really goes on in a hospital, it's those incredibly helpful switchboard operators. I mean, you must hear everything."

"Well, Doris in theatre doesn't reckon much to Mr Bryton's knots, but I've never heard a patient complain. In fact, Cybil in outpatients says he gets more bottles of whisky at Christmas than the other gynaecologists put together."

"So he's a nice man?"

"Oh yes. And very old-fashioned, too."

"Meaning?"

"Well, he doesn't piddle about with keyhole surgery and lasers. He's very much straight down the middle and out with the lot."

"He does recommend you could recommend?"

"Mr Masan's the talk of the hospital since he appeared in the Good Doctor Guide."

"Great."

"But Sheila from Medical Records reckons he forged his own recommendations."

"Still, he might be worth a shot."

"Not for you, dear, he's a knee man. Can I just ask how much schooling you've had?"

"Why?"

"Leslie from the library, she's got women's problems so she had a nose through the journals. And guess what?"

"What?"

"According to some professor in Cambridge, you're 15 times more likely to have a hysterectomy

"All officially?"

"I couldn't say."

"That's what the BMA said."

"All our consultants are highly trained - we cannot recommend individuals."

"So why are you asking me?"

"I just thought that if anyone

time is critical. When fear or embarrassment keep people from seeing their GP, the chances of complete cure are much reduced."

InfoLine: 0171-381 4711.

Wake up slim

Dieters who skip breakfast as part of a slimming regime may be making it harder to lose weight. Research shows that eating a cereal breakfast reduces the percentage of daily fat consumed and raises the level of carbohydrate and fibre. Breakfast eaters also tend to be slim-

mer than those who miss the meal, according to the *British Journal of Nutrition*, cited in *The Breakfast Report*, published by Kellogg's yesterday.

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As Tracey Emin said to David Bowie: 'Come into my tent'

Tracey Emin is one of the artistic sensations about to go on show at the Royal Academy. David Bowie, pop star turned art writer, went to talk to her on behalf of 'Modern Painters' magazine. Between them they offer an A to M (or is it an N to Z?) of Young British Art.

David Bowie: I think there are a lot of your particular generation who are now getting what we in the rock industry call a backlash. There's a feeling that you sit on your laurels, you haven't got much more to give apart from the first statement, the first shock or whatever, that there is no real ambition or desire among the YBAs to make art. It's more about going to parties and being seen.

Tracey Emin: I think that comes through ignorance, because if people knew how hard we worked... This YBA thing is stupid. I'm a 34-year-old woman. And I haven't actually ever sacrificed anything in my life, but I've worked really hard at what I believe in. It's not a whim. It's just a little bit of a fashion thing. And when my work ceases to have currency, I'm not gonna stop doing it... At the moment I'd like to have a radio show. I don't see art as just a visual thing... If I did a radio show I would actually say how the format of the radio show is and the show would be more like a kind of sound piece...

DB: So how does only knowing half the alphabet feel? Which half do you prefer anyway?

TE: Well, I do know the whole alphabet except I can't actually put it in the right order... I didn't read [a book] until I was 7. And then from 17 I read a book a week until 1989, and the last major bulk reading that I did was esoterics, and then after that I stopped reading basically. But I read occasionally.

DB: 1989 - would that be the period when you really started to discover your own style of work?

TE: No, 1989-90 was when I was pregnant and had an abortion and I stopped everything. I stopped art. I stopped reading. I stopped living. I smashed all my paintings up in 1988, and then I just threw a load in the skip in 1989, and then I destroyed everything in 1990.

DB: And when did you start working within an autobiographical genre?

TE: I've always worked in an autobiographical way.

DB: OK, but who it became more literary, like using your writing in your work.

TE: When I realised that I had some value, you mean? Well first of all, I've always written. I've always kept a diary since I was 14. I'm a prolific letter writer, the most obsessive letter writer, and in 1992 I did a philosophy course for two years, and that really sorted out a lot of things in my head regarding contemporary art, because previously all I could think about was like Edward Munch and Byzantine frescos, Giotto and early Renaissance. My head had stopped working. There was nothing artistically that filled it up, and then after doing the modern philosophy course it kinda opened up a part of my mind which hadn't been explored before... it opened up a big space and I realised that anything could be art. It's the conviction and the belief behind what you do, the essence of where it's coming from so it's more like a conceptual idea, even though I don't make conceptual looking work.

DB: I saw a recent statistic that suggested that as many people go to galleries and art museums as go to rock shows and clubs.

TE: Yes, but also with art it's such a recent thing - Britain's more literary based, but now it's becoming visually based as well. It's becoming more aesthetic with everything from furniture to fashion to nice looking, for example.

DB: I don't agree with you there. We are not primarily a literary-based nation. I think that it's a cliché that's been thrown around far too much. I think we're incredibly visually aware, actually. We always have been. I think that the history of British painting is extraordinary. Every century a great fist of brilliance has thrust through the old 16th-century repression. Always there has been a great painter... [On painting] Titian, who had parties and everything, was quite a socialite, but he had a serious approach to painting and doing a good job. Not so much about expressing himself or...

TE: Yes, but I've got friends who do that. They get up, they go to the studio, they do their work but they...

DB: They do extraordinarily accomplished paintings.

TE: Yes, and they go home again. But it's not like that for me, and never has been. Basically, I don't think there's any point in making something which has already been made before.

DB: You put a high value on originality.

TE: Yeah.

DB: Why?

TE: Because it's the moment of something.

DB: Is a more traditional artist not creating another kind of moment in his own work?

TE: For themselves, yeah, but not for the rest of the world.

DB: That's very general isn't it, because there is a world that also appreciates that kind of work, no?... more people flock to see a Turner or Vermeer show than say a Gilbert and George.

TE: The thing is that if you've got a message and you want it to be heard, you have to find a way of communicating which excites people, and for me it just wouldn't be worth doing what I did if I just re-created something which was done 50... I can paint really good Edvard Munch paintings. I can

do really good Hockney woodcuts 'cause I did it as a student. But I'm not a student any more - well, we're all a student of life if you want to put it like that - but for me I have to be excited about what I'm doing, I have to re-invent, re-create.

DB: You sound a little bit dismissive of artists who don't work in what would be called the original.

TE: I'm sure a lot of them are a lot more dismissive towards me... I had to come to terms with my failure as an artist. And the artist I was trying to be was that traditional-type artist, and I was just crap at it. I had to find a way for myself. So what I'm talking about is personal experience... the biggest influence in my life is my life, like my ex-

perience - not what I do from day to day but how I make sense of the world or whatever.

DB: Fame in a frame.

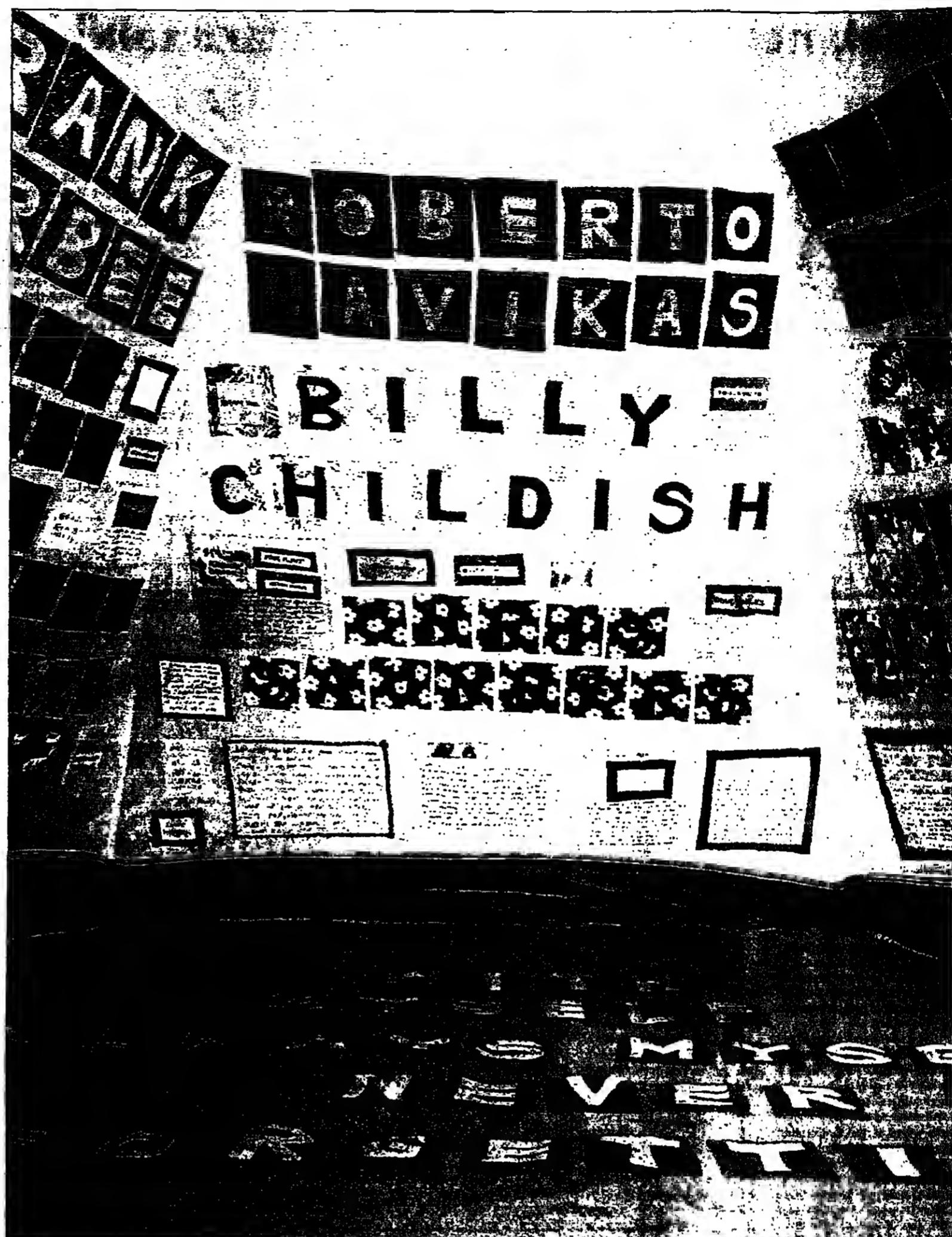
TE: Fame in a frame.

DB: Because, what your work is becoming, whether you like it or not, is a celebration of personality, because of its autobiographical hub, and because of its literary pursuit. Your work has been dragged out of the library, almost out of the area of memorabilia and autobiography into an art context or gallery-showing context, which is quite interesting. It doesn't have what some critics would call deeper context, it has a what-you-see-is-what-you-get kind of honesty to it...

TE: There are people who spend all of their lives in the New Forest painting horses. They're not artists. They're picture makers. It's more like a craft, or a trade, or whatever, it's an industry of sorts.

'Sensation' opens on Thursday at the Royal Academy, London W1 (0171-300 3000). To 28 Dec

THIS THURSDAY:
Tom Lubbock reviews 'Sensation' in *The Eye*



Shock tactics: 'I don't think there's any point in making things that have already been made,' controversial YBA Tracey Emin tells David Bowie (left © Iman). Her highly personal work, 'Everyone I Have Ever Slept With 1963-1995', above, features in the RA's 'Sensation' exhibition © Tracey Emin

MY FAVOURITE PICTURE

Craigie Aitchison on Andreas Mantegna's 'The Dead Christ'

The painter Craigie Aitchison was in and out of the news last week as one of the better known Royal Academicians to have taken against 'Sensation' and

particularly against the 'shock tactic' nature of so much of the work on show. We know then what sort of paintings he doesn't like: but what of those that he does? His selection of Andrea Mantegna's *The Dead Christ* begins an occasional series on favourite pictures chosen by prominent artists.

"I like it because it tells a story. I first saw it about three years ago but I'd had it in mind for years and years before that, in black and white I think, because I'd only ever seen it in a book. It's a wonderful reddish colour and terrifically drawn. I saw it really by chance. I'd gone to the museum with a friend and I didn't know it was in there but then I saw it and



British Figurative Art at Flowers East, 199-205 Richmond Road, London E8 (0181-985 3333) to Monday, and a group of his small paintings are on show at Wiseman Originals, 34 West Square, London SE11 (0171-587 0747) to 30 Sept.

Richard Ingleby

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Ideal, no. Hopeful, maybe. Start talking, Mr Trimble



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E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address.
Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Sir: Northern Ireland has always been a political anomaly within the Union and, one way or another, this has always been due to the nationalist population. The exceptional autonomy Ulster enjoyed until the fall of Stormont was due in great measure in the reluctance of the Westminster government to take direct responsibility for the problematic province. Since the fall of Stormont the Troubles have ensured that Ulster has become yet more anomalous.

These imperfections in the Union have been consistently remarked upon and yet never resolved. Britain promises more than it can deliver, Ulster fears it will end up with even less. Britain insists the Union is intact, Unionists know it is not. Perhaps it is time for us all to come clean in an attempt to get this relationship on a clear and sustainable basis once and for all.

The ties of culture and kinship between Ulster and the rest of the UK are strong and enduring. The question is only what political form the connection should take. There has never been a perfect Union and there cannot be. Northern Ireland is too complicated for that. It is within the context then of an imperfect Union that Unionists need to realise the twin aims of fostering the link to the UK and living peacefully with their neighbours.

Practical security for Unionists must come before the chimera of a perfect Union - clinging to that in fact only exacerbates its current agonies. It is time to do a deal.

NICK MARTIN-CLARK
London N8

Sir: Nothing could be further from the truth than the suggestion ("Greenham women celebrate the final victory with garden shears and muscle power", 15 September) that the removal of the Greenham Common fence marks "a final victory for peace campaigners" - unless, by peace campaigners, he really means Nato.

When President Ronald Reagan proposed the Zero Option in 1981, CND and Greenham protesters rejected it. They vowed first to prevent cruise missiles being deployed at the base, and then to prevent them from leaving the base in

convoy patrols after they were duly deployed on schedule in 1983. The unilateralists utterly failed to achieve their aims.

By contrast, Nato's Zero Option objective was to achieve the elimination of the cruise missiles to return for Soviet destruction of hundreds of SS20 missiles targeted against Western Europe. This was precisely what Nato achieved in its 1987 deal with the Kremlin, following the successful deployment of cruise, despite all the protesters' predictions to the contrary. You should not give them credit for the beneficial consequences of their total defeat.

Dr JULIAN LEWIS MP
(Con, New Forest East)
House of Commons
London SW1

Sir: All who have been victims in various ways of the BSE epidemic are entitled to know the

range of circumstances which lead to the outbreak and how it got out of control. MAFF officials have for years behaved patronisingly by implying that they already knew all the facts and the relevant background.

Charles Arthur's article ("Top scientist urges inquiry into BSE saga", 13 September) draws attention to the open letter published in the *New Statesman* calling for a judicial inquiry into the BSE saga. A Maff spokesman responded to Professor Colin Blakemore's much-publicised support for the letter with the threadbare mantra that it had acted on the best scientific advice at the time and that an inquiry would elicit nothing but easy hindsight. Some signatures know of plenty of important evidence, where clear foresights, by a range of suitably qualified people, were ignored, or lost in bureaucratic turmoil. It could too easily happen again if the same systems persist.

Malcolm Key
Branch Secretary
Corporation of London
Unison
London EC3

All of this would be brought into context with other issues by a judicial inquiry. Its report would, relatively quickly, contribute to a much more resilient Food Standards Agency.

Dr A G DICKINSON
Lasswade, Midlothian

Sir: Reading John Willcock's article on franchise reform of the Corporation of London ("City's ancient institution votes itself into the democratic era", 12 September), many will feel that, after so many years under the threat of abolition by a Labour government, those who run the City are getting off rather lightly if all they have to consult about is increasing the number of business votes and changing the tenure of aldermen. What is perhaps more salient to the reform of practices which have developed within this backwater of local administration is the need for

it to behave respectfully towards its own workforce.

A lone of local authorities, the corporation refuses to consult with the national trade union for local government staff, preferring its own employees' club which it has invested with the trappings and the means of a lame, in-house staff association. Despite a sizeable membership among corporation staff, it refuses to acknowledge the union's existence, to the point of misinforming its recruits that only its own staff club is available to those who wish to keep trade union membership, and to the extent that the only circumstance which will force it to deal with us is when we take issue with it through the courts.

At a time when the business community in the City is tidying up its act in respect of its local government, there appears to be no move towards this basic enfranchisement of the workforce on which it depends for its public services.

MALCOLM KEY
Branch Secretary
Corporation of London
Unison
London EC3

Sir: The problems of conservation and eco-tourism (report, 15 September) arise because of Western definitions of conservation which presume the separation of humans from nature.

The image of exotic expanses of African wilderness without human inhabitants is a myth created by Western conservationists. Protected areas in Africa often entail the forceful eviction of the indigenous population without provision for alternative livelihoods. In this context, why shouldn't conservation be redefined as "the sustainable use of natural resources by local communities"?

Your article is right; conserva-

tion is a legacy of colonialism. It is easy for us in the West to advocate protected areas, since it is never us who are thrown out of our homes. And it is as tourists that we enjoy the majority of the benefits. No wonder tourist companies put so much money into conservation, very little of which gets to those who have suffered because of it.

MIKE SANSON
Bristol

Sir: We have overlooked the fact that most of the public life of the Royal Family is spent in supporting charities in a variety of ways - by patronage, opening events to raise money, and visits to hospitals and institutions all over the world.

The difference in style and approach from Princess Diana, of which much has been made, is to some extent at least due to protocol, the Constitution, and tradition, and to the general demand for the security of the sovereign and her family.

Maybe if the Queen and other members of the royal family were to have the misfortune of being photographed in swimsuits, they would attract better publicity?

The Rev C W CARR
Preston, Hampshire

land is "confidence-building". It has a warm ring to it, implying trust grows spontaneously as people meet and talk together. In fact it is a phrase borrowed from the lexicon of the Cold War where it had everything to do with verifiability and nothing to do with vodka-fuelled evenings in a Berlin bierkeller. David Trimble is thus entitled to say that his confidence will not depend on seeing the visages of Messrs Adams and McGuinness around a table but on the numbers of Armalite rifles destroyed by the Garda and the RUC. What he has to decide this week is whether the talks process is more or less likely to lead to that kind of confidence-building. It would be naive to be any more than cautious about the prospect. But as long as there is a finite calculation to be made which says peace, durable or temporary, is more likely as long as the talking goes on, Mr Trimble owes his party and his province nothing short of dogged attendance at Senator Mitchell's deal table.

LETTERS



PRIESTLEY

When it comes to transplanted roots, the Ukrainians know a thing or two



MILES
KINGTON

"All right, can you tell where I'm from by my accent?" said the fiancee down the table.

My wife and I were staying in July at this Vermont hotel at Craftsbury Common, which was so small that all the people having dinner sat at the same table and were forced to talk to each other. Our company this evening included a Ukrainian/Canadian dentist, a French-Canadian orthodontist, and an engaged couple from the US.

The Ukrainian had been claiming that you could tell where people came from by their accent. He had already successfully identified my wife and me as British, which was not a hard trick to do. The Americans had counter-attacked by saying

that you could always identify a Canadian by the way he said a certain word - I had forgotten which it is now, but I think it was "across" - and so the Canadians at table were forced to say this word, and sure enough the Americans booted with laughter.

"There is a famous TV newsreader in the United States who is Canadian," said an American, "and every time he uses that word, the whole of America sits up in their chair and shouts 'Canadian'."

The Canadians then pointed out that almost everything the Americans took pride in as American, from Jim Carrey to Pamela Anderson, really came from Canada: and theo

fiancee down the table said: "All right, can you tell where I'm from by my accent?"

"New York," said the Ukrainian/Canadian.

"From my accent?" she said, looking pleased.

"No," he said, "I knew you were from New York because you were so loud."

Howls of merriment from all present, except for the engaged couple. She looked disconcerted and he sprang to her defence.

"Hey, look," he said. "You gotta be loud if you live in New York. How else you gonna get by? If you're in a grocery store and the guy says 'Next'... then you move! You don't speak up, you don't get served. I've known people get to the front

of the line and theo start tasting the different cheeses to see which one they like, for God's sake! How's anyone going to get served if we all do that?"

Looking back, I see that the whole conversation wasn't really about accents, it was about roots, and how important they were. Another American pair we met at that hotel had come all the way from France, where they owned a château/hotel. They were well rooted in France, but the reason they had come to this part of Vermont was to bring their teenage son to a well-known summer tennis camp called Windyridge.

"We want him to grow up an American boy, not French," she told us. The boy looked miserable. He was clearly quite happy growing up half-French half-home, and here his mother was trying to implant our own roots in him.

Yes, it's a funny old business, roots. We need them so much that we even take them, if what they say about Alex Haley is true. But it's commoner to take them with you, as did Harry Miller. He was the father of a builder we stopped to talk to in the same Vermont village.

"My father left England to come here," said the son of Harry Miller, "and he's never been back, but I can tell you exactly where he came from. It was a small town in Northumberland called Rothbury, in the valley of the river Coquet, and one day

I aim to go there." I had never heard of Rothbury or the Coquet, which sounded far too French a name to be Northumbrian, but sure enough there it is on the map, and if anyone reading this in Rothbury remembers Harry Miller, I can give you a forwarding address.

But the most touching example of transplanted roots I saw oo that trip was hundred of miles away, in the open countryside near Toronto, where a huge wooden church stands in open farmland. This church expatriate Ukrainians - including perhaps the dentist, or even Greg Ruschuk's parents - have built for themselves, in the old onion-dome East European style but in new, shin-

ing wood. And outside was a notice which was so other-worldly that I copied it down word for word. Here it is:

"UKRAINIAN CHURCH. This church is founded in honour and memory of the holy glorious prophet Elias. In the reign of Her Majesty Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada, in the episcopacy of his Grace Isidore, Bishop of Toronto. In the year of the world 7502 and from the nativity in the Flesh of God the year 1994, July 18 OS."

No, I'm not sure what it all means either, but I do know that if Ukrainians really think the year 7502 is the right date, then Ukraine is going to be a good place to go to get away from the millennium.

A modern monarchy, in seven easy stages

Step one: The Queen retires at the end of this year. I write "retires" rather than "abdicates" to mark how natural such a decision would be. The Queen has passed 70. She has done the job for 45 years. Fresh decisions have to be taken about the future of the monarchy as an institution; decisions that would be handled more appropriately by the next generation. If the matter is discussed as abdication, we unfortunately leave in play vestiges of the antique notion of a divine right to rule.

Step two: Prince Charles succeeds as king. We all think we "know" Prince Charles pretty well, in the same sense that we "knew" Princess Diana. We see an intelligent, sensitive man who has long prepared for the task. The real Charles is the Charles of the Prince's Trust. No precedent has been available to guide him in setting up one of the most imaginative and successful charitable enterprises in the country. That is his work, and his impressive achievement; it is a good clue to what sort of king he would be.

We must accept, though, that Charles cannot now escape his upbringing. If you are brought up in the Royal Family, you live outside normal society. You are at once pampered and disfigured. Having an imaginative understanding of ordinary people is difficult. Compare President Mary Robinson of Ireland with any royal person.

Step three: Two means that the Crown would not pass, as some would like, from the present Queen over Charles and on to Prince William. Even in a few years' time, William, with his father and perhaps his grandmother still alive, would too easily appear a sort of proxy king. He would be implausibly young. Of course the Queen herself was in her twenties when she began her reign, and Churchill delighted in being the country's grandfatherly Prime Minister. But that is history, not contemporary life. You can be too young as well as too old to be an effective monarch.

Step three: This is crucial. The Royal Family becomes a small Royal family. It comprises simply King Charles, William as heir to the throne and his brother Harry, now in line. As well as the Queen, the rest of the Royal Family, including the Queen Mother, also retire. Or, to put it more bluntly, they leave public life and become private citizens, with their titles if they wish, and they feed, water and house themselves at their own expense.

The larger the group of Royals, the more vulnerable it has been to attack. The Royals are ordinary people, compelled to carry out formal duties, which they mostly do by going through the motions. For example, a princess comes to the Royal Opera House for some charitable performance. In the interval she joins other guests of the chairman of the Opera House. Who shall be brought up to speak to her? Knowing her reputation for haughtiness, many refuse to be condescended. The interlude has become embarrassing.

Step four: If Prince Charles and Camilla Parker Bowles wish to marry, they should do so. The more normal Charles's life, the more effective he would be as monarch. Why leave any important issue unresolved?

I do not mean by this that Mrs Parker Bowles should become Queen: that does not feel right. We must start using titles with more care (which means no more Duchesses of York). Nor should Mrs Parker Bowles be given any lesser courtesy title. No: we would read sometimes in news reports that, say, "The King and Mrs Parker Bowles



ANDREAS
WHITTAM
SMITH
ON ROYALTY

(or Mrs Windsor) visited Liverpool today..."

Step five: There is a coronation ceremony designed clearly to re-state the role of the monarchy. In planning this, the book of precedent should remain firmly closed. The aristocracy, the hereditary office-holders, the heralds, the pages, all should be forgotten. There should be less pomp at the state opening of Parliament, which itself should be considerably revised. Likewise, the form of the ancient religious service should be disregarded. The one useful example for the coronation planners is very recent: Princess Diana's funeral. The Court, 10 Downing Street, and the Church of England working together quickly devised a ceremony and religious service which was appropriate, dignified, essentially simple and satisfying. I have heard no criticism of it.

In a 1998 coronation, continuity with the past could be secured by using Westminster Abbey and by the actual crowning. The religious element, which I assume is still felt important by a sufficient proportion of the population, should encompass the nation's main faiths, non-Christian as well as Christian. Charles has indicated that he wishes to be defender of all faiths. Invitations to the ceremony should reflect national life in all its diversity. But let us avoid calling it a "people's" coronation: this acronym will soon begin to grate.

Step six: The privacy of the small Royal Family is protected by law. Countries everywhere, whether monarchies or republics, have conventions, rules, regulations or legislation which guard the standing of the head of state. In our present circumstances, and with a small Royal family as I have described, a Royal Privacy Law would be essential.

Step seven: The small Royal family is funded by the state without stint. It has an exceedingly important job to do. Nobody can begrudge the means. This need not be onerous, because the whole operation would fit into one palace, Buckingham Palace. There would be one Royal Household, one private office, one press relations unit.

By these steps the monarchy could remake itself, and perhaps enjoy another long lease of life. The issue is not whether it might evolve into something similar to the Dutch and Scandinavian monarchies. Under the above plan it could become, in its way, as quintessentially British as the old system. There is no serious obstacle. The Crown has been at the disposal of Parliament since the 17th century. A country which has just restored a proper assembly to Scotland after a gap of nearly 300 years could surely now move on to reform and re-invigorate its monarchy.

Hague needs to start an argument within his own ranks



DONALD
MACINTYRE
ON THE WAY
FORWARD FOR
THE TORIES

Being leader of the Opposition can be a miserable job at the best of times. When the defeat has been as comprehensive as the one in May, when the Government's honeymoon is as long as Tony Blair's, when gurus such as the philosopher John Gray are telling anyone who will listen that Conservatism is good and dead, and when one of your prominent ex-MPs has just defected, these are not the best of times. For a lot of this, William Hague cannot remotely be blamed. A combination of Nelson Mandela, Margaret Thatcher and Winston Churchill would be finding leadership difficult under these circumstances. And no, Tories have not yet started driving round with "Don't blame me, I voted for Kenneth Clarke" bumper stickers on their cars. There are nevertheless some convincing signs that Hague is making a bad situation worse.

It was not smart for Hague to complain, in his rather uneasy interview with Sir David Frost on Sunday, that the Government had made party political capital out of its role in the funeral arrangements for Diana, Princess of Wales. Even if it were true, and even if it didn't look a rather petty case of crying foul after the game is over, public opinion was so obviously on the Government's

side that it was never going to be a persuasive case to run. For the public, in their innocence, the arcane protocol surrounding what can and cannot be said by politicians about their dealings with the Royal Family is probably part of the problem rather than part of the solution.

That would matter less if it were the only case of bad advice, bad judgement, or both. But it isn't, as a suggestive example shows. Michael Ancram was an intelligent and professional Northern Ireland minister, but was it really sensible

When it comes to mammals, we'd really rather they were real

Fed up with life? Low self-esteem? Here's a foolproof remedy: take two half-pound bags of goo, slice open your chest, and insert them. Apparently, it will change your life.

Big, bogus breasts are everywhere, it seems, promising success, increased attractiveness and self-fulfilment. The Wonderbra started it, enhancing cleavages on every billboard. Now we are bursting out with the pneumatic Melinda Messenger and an increasing list of celebrities - Demi Moore, Pamela Anderson, Paula Yates, Melanie Griffiths - not just bearing manufactured mammals, but proud to admit it.

JOJO
MOYES
ON BOGUS
BREASTS

Inflated breasts have become the new symbol of self-reinvention. "My new breasts changed my life," blare the headlines, while magazine back pages swell with ads for cosmetic surgeons. But their role as objects of fascination stems not just from their obvious sexual properties: we want to know about the criminal who spent her haul on them ("Black Widow Busts out with £6,000 Boob Job"), the clerk who begged to be made redundant so she could afford them ("From Bank Job to Boob Job"), lottery winners who spend their winnings on them ("National Whopper").

Perhaps it is not surprising that in this breast-obsessed climate, demand for cosmetic surgery is said to have tripled in the last three years, with an estimated 65,000 people a year now venturing under the surgeon's knife, 35 per cent of them for breast enlargement. Banks and building societies report an increasing trade in personal loans to facilitate the operation. Hurrah! Now everyone can have big breasts - but who are they actually for?

The popular view is that it is men who drive the demand for huge breasts: they helped create the Page 3 girl, a creation generally unloved by the rest of



Upfront celebrities: (clockwise from top left) Melanie Griffith, Pamela Anderson, Melinda Messenger, and Demi Moore

womankind. It is they who, the large-chested complain, fail to co-exist with them at eye level.

But ask any man who has actually had contact with an implanted breast whether he liked it, and more often than not the words thrown back are slogans like "weird", "off-putting" and, indeed, "repulsive". In July, even *Sun* readers voted to have silicone breasts removed from Page 3, that altar of mammary worship. Eighty two per cent of readers voted that models with breast enlargement should be barred, in favour of the unenhanced. The only men who can undeniably be said to profit are the plastic surgeons (and usually they are).

These breasts are not for children - the outpouring of which, lest we forget, is their primary purpose. Although it is usually claimed that breast implants will not interfere with breastfeeding, this is not the case if (as is a risk with any breast surgery) glandular tissue or milk ducts are affected.

IV debate helped Blair. The present Albanian-style plebiscite both on his own leadership and his plans for some centralising reforms of party organisation has provoked some grass-roots grumbling. It will go through - but the most catastrophic mistake the party could now make is to assume that its problems in the 1997 election were primarily organisational. One complaint against Hague from quite senior ranks in the party is that he seems much more comfortable on the topic of organisation - in which he has at hand the professional skills of the Asda chairman Archie Norman - than on the overall direction of the party's thinking. He is right, of course, to believe that the last thing the Tories need now is a raft of detailed policies. Opposition, especially long-haul, two-term opposition, isn't about that. But he will never have a better opportunity than now to trigger a debate about ideas within the party. Should Conservatism opt for an English parliament? Should it go greener than Labour? Should it advocate compulsory arbitration on pay in the public services? Is it sensible for the Shadow Foreign Secretary Michael Howard to pursue his quaint notion that the next election will be fought on a

platform of EU renegotiation, under the threat of withdrawal? At the moment the party seems perversely stuck in its pre-election positions. Clarke, who was said to be too much of an old-timer, still looks the more modern politician.

Hague should not panic. But he should listen to a much wider circle than that of his belligerent lieutenant Alan Duncan about when to pick fights with the Government and when not to. He will also need to focus up to a mid-term purge of some of the retreads from the previous government. The summer has made it much more probable that both Michael Portillo and Chris Patten will return to British politics. Patten is being heavily pressed to come back by some senior figures on the Tory centre-left. (One of them, John Major, recently spent some time with Patten on holiday at Tristian Garel-Jones's house in Spain.) But Patten is still hesitating, not least, it is said, because of uncertainty over how to oppose free-market, one-nation Blairism. Hague said on Sunday that he would welcome both with "open arms". But he needs to put a much more convincing stamp on the party at next month's conference, if he is not to risk being overshadowed by the best of his own colleagues.

he said, because women were desperately unhappy. "It is not about vanity, but self-consciousness ... An operation is a statement which proclaims that a woman feels inadequate about her appearance."

Reconstructive surgery aside, these women need to conform to a modern ideal: they look at Melinda, or Demi, and translate a difference in breast size into a difference in worthiness. But breast size does not denote attractiveness: Kate Moss is a beauty icon of our time, small-breasted and comfortable in her own skin. I once knew a former Playboy bunny with breasts - her own admission - like two fried eggs. Men genuflected in her presence.

Beauty has more to do with confidence than cup size. And in an age where we are increasingly aware of toxins, and monitor scrupulously what we put in our mouths and lungs, it seems bizarre that women are voluntarily cutting themselves open to insert foreign substances into their bodies, closing their eyes to the possibility of any long-term problems.

But perhaps that is the point. Because the silicone, oil-based, saline, or Hydrogel breast is the ultimate icon of our time. It is the ultimate in short-termism, the ultimate in style over content.

Women who have had implants don't want to hear about potential side-effects in the future: they want to feel better about themselves now. They don't care if it feels a bit different; they just care that it should look perfect. If they lose a bit of sensation, have trouble breastfeeding or suffer the odd sleepless night from fear, isn't that a small price to pay?

Strippers demonstrate perhaps the most honest application. They have breast implants to increase their worth as a commodity. They look better, therefore the rewards are greater. Everything else is unimportant. And that is the saddest thing. Where our deepest associations with the natural breast were those of comfort, pleasure and sensuality, the unnatural one has perverted all that: it is about nothing but appearance.

In the rush to meet a modern ideal, we are left with something closer to the stripper's art: look, don't touch. Perhaps it is time to adopt a slogan from the boys' tray. Size isn't everything, girls.

performed the opera

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Aldo Rossi



Aldo Rossi, Italian architect and writer; born Milan 3 May 1931; married (one son, one daughter); died Milan 4 September 1997.

A tower of fresh yellow planking, banded in blue with an octagon pyramid roof and a little weather-vane. Aldo Rossi's Teatro del Mondo was built at Fusina in 1980 as part of the Architecture Biennale. Towed into Venice on barges and moored by the Punto della Dogana, it made a memorable and much-reproduced image.

The 1980 Biennale, the first of its kind, was called "The Presence of the Past" and marked a significant shift in Western architecture away from the presumptions of modernism. As

Christian Norberg-Schulz noted in the catalogue, Robert Venturi's "complexity" and Rossi's "typology" were leading ideas of the previous 15 years and Rossi was well chosen to provide its public face with the Teatro and the temporary entrance at the Arsenale.

Born in 1931, Rossi graduated in Milan in 1959, having spent time in Russia in the 1950s and found Stalinist classicism beautiful as well as popular. Neither was he afraid of the association of his work with Fascist architecture, for, as Vincent Scully wrote, "He is better at it than the Fascist architects were. He regains the tradition more vitally because he is operating through memory rather than ideology."

Rossi's *The Architecture of the City*, written around 1960, published in Italy in 1966 and translated into English in 1980, showed how "naïve functionalism" had neglected the beauty and reality of cities. He drew on the theories of the Enlightenment to argue that all cities were ordered and structured entities, individual in certain respects but capable of analysis by common principles.

The idea of typology, an essential and unvarying form related to use, had been developed among Rossi's colleagues at Venice University, and "type" became an analytical and poetic device, characterised in practice

by simplified representations of the forms of classical buildings. This idea has proved immensely powerful and can be seen demonstrated in the IBA housing developments in Berlin of the 1980s, where Rossi was a prize-winning architect, and in the more recent rebuilding campaigns in Paris, where he evoked a section of the Rue de Rivoli with a pavement colonnade and curved zinc roof in a residential block at La Villette of 1991.

This movement was known as the "tendenza", or Neo-Rationalism, after Rossi's manifesto of 1973, *Architettura Razionale*, for an exhibition at the 15th Milan Triennale, evoking its precursor of the same name 40 years before. The rationalism was not constructional or functional, but Platonic, intended to evoke the empty spaces of dreams and memories found in the paintings of Giorgio di Chirico. Manfredo Tafuri saw it as "a search that led to a liberation from fixed contexts and a movement towards a horizon where private and collected pasts merged". In this search, Rossi was "the only 'school leader' capable of constantly fuelling around his own works and a controversy and an interest that ended by affecting the very concept of architecture."

Rossi's own response to

places and objects, like the beach huts of Elba and bright enamel coffee-pots, is described in his *A Scientific Autobiography* (1981). It is a work of magical charm that, like *The Architecture of the City*, has remained constantly in print.

He wrote, "I have always claimed that places are stronger than people", and in his first major work, the Gallaratese House outside Milan (1969-73), he transformed the memory of a section of city, standing on in suburban isolation, with long colonnades of thin rectangular piers, evoking the drawings of the French revolutionary architect Boulle, whose treatise on art Rossi translated in 1990.

His imagination was perhaps more appropriately deployed at the San Cataldo Cemetery, Modena (1971-84), with its startling burnt-sienna cuboid ossuary. Less imposing, although still glacially disciplined, was his Secondary School at Broni, 1979. Other executed works in Italy include the Town Hall at Borgoricco, 1983, and Case Aurora offices, Turin, 1984-87, with his characteristic large, smooth, coloured forms.

In later years Rossi's practice became increasingly international with a hotel in Fukuoka, Japan, 1988, the School of Architecture at the University of Miami and Disney Corporation Offices at Celebration, Florida.

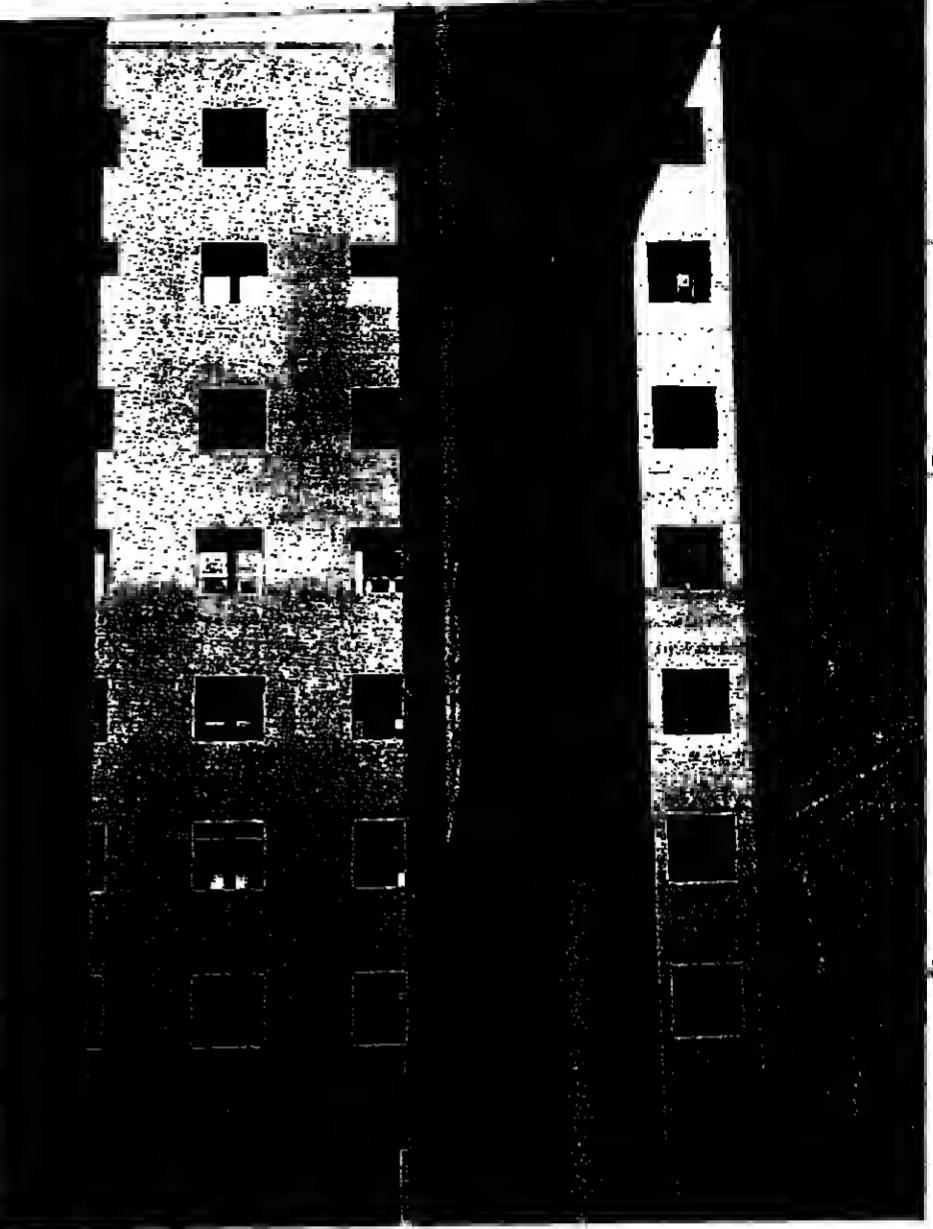
and an abortive project for Canary Wharf, London, 1990. He taught at Arezzo, Milan, Zurich, Venice, Yale and the Cooper Union, New York. He was awarded the Pritzker Prize in 1990.

On a less exalted level Rossi will be remembered as the designer of a range of coffee-pots for Alessi which were marketed as expensive objects of fashionable taste in the 1980s. His work was exhibited in England at the ICA (1983) and at York City Art Gallery (where a 36ft leaning tower by Rossi was erected) and the RIBA, London, in 1987. The closest thing to a Rossi building in London is the temporary scaffolding cover of the Albert Memorial.

Aldo Rossi's ideas and images were influential on many architects who have been labelled Post-Modernist, particularly in their search for the reconstruction of the city. He wrote in 1988, "I still have a dream of great civil architecture; not the concordance of discord, but the city that is beautiful because of the wealth and variety it contains. I believe in the future of the city for this reason."

He suffered a serious car crash in 1971 and planned the Modena Cemetery during his recovery. He died as the result of another crash near his home in Milan.

- Alan Powers



Photograph: Bruno Murawiec

Roger Frey

Roger Frey, French politician; born Nouméa, New Caledonia 11 June 1913; President of the Constitutional Council 1974-83; married (two children); died 13 September 1997.

As Minister of the Interior in France from 1961 Roger Frey had the reputation of being an easy man in cabinet meetings, presided over by de Gaulle, accepting the President's criticisms with a smile, and occasionally whispering irreverent pleasantries into the ear of an embarrassed colleague. But publicly he was a hard and sceptical minister.

His justification was that these were times of desperate danger. Algerian nationalists had for long been fighting the battle of Paris. They were not disarmed by the referendum of January 1961 whereby 75 per cent of the French population in France had accepted the independence of Algeria. French police were attacked (64 were killed between 1958 and 1962), the Algerians fought amongst themselves, and the Secret Army of the French settlers in Algeria - who were opposed

to independence - began to act as a terrorist group within France.

The government therefore decreed that a curfew should come into force forbidding Algerians to be on the streets in Paris and its suburbs after 8.30pm.

The Algerian nationalists demonstrated against this treatment on 17 October 1961. Twenty thousand tried to converge on the centre of Paris. They were attacked by some 9,000 police and security guards. The Ministry of the Interior announced that two Algerians had been killed. But soon other figures were produced suggesting that 60 or 70 had been killed. This was denied by the minister. The figure remains uncertain but it seems likely that more than 200 Algerians perished. Apparently, Frey remained unmoved.

At the beginning of 1962 the Secret Army (the OAS) multiplied its terrorist attacks and, in an attempt to blow up André Malraux's house, a four-year-old girl was badly injured in the face. Her photograph deeply moved the French public and the trade unions, claiming that the gov-

ernment was not doing enough to protect people, organised a massive demonstration. The minister forbade this. But on 8 February 1962 some 8,000 trade unionists tried to demonstrate in Place de la Bastille. The police attacked them violently and eight demonstrators were killed as they tried to take refuge in the metro station Charronne. Half a million

people followed their coffins when they were buried on 13 February.

Frey was held responsible for the events (along with Maurice Papon, the Prefect of Police, who had been an officer under Vichy and who was tried next month for crimes against humanity committed in 1942 and 1944). He blamed Algerian nationalists for October 1961 and

the Communist Party for February 1962, although later claiming that both incidents had been provoked by the OAS.

Beyond the official police he made use of special groups. There were the "barbouzes" (the bearded ones) and the section d'action cible, both of which used unorthodox methods to hunt out those who were considered to be the enemies of the Republic.

Frey was accused of making France into a police state. He claimed that France was in danger of civil war. He said that the OAS had already worked out who was to be in their government and in the Council of Ministers he joked with de Gaulle about who would take his place.

On 29 October 1965 Ben Barka, a leading opposition figure to the King of Morocco and a third world leader, was stopped by two French policemen as he was about to enter the Brasserie Lipp on the Boulevard Saint Germain. He got into their car and was driven to the villa of a well-known ex-criminal in Fontenay-le-Vicomte. He was never seen again and he was certainly murdered.

What was the role of Roger Frey and the French police and secret service in all this? This was a mystery that was never cleared up. It led to widespread criticisms of the government. De Gaulle sharply accused Pompidou and Frey of not being effective in charge of their administrations. But he took no further action. The incident brought Pompidou closer to Frey.

In 1967 he became Minister of State, responsible for relations with parliament. Two years later he was unexpectedly consulted by de Gaulle about the forthcoming referendum. Should he postpone it for a fortnight, the General asked? Frey advised him not to. To postpone it would mean a great loss of prestige. De Gaulle resigned. But Frey believed that de Gaulle had never contemplated postponement. He therefore gave him the answer that he wished.

This was in keeping with Frey's view of de Gaulle. When he learned that Alain Peyrefitte, at that time Minister for Information, was keeping a record of his conversations with de Gaulle, he thought it a great

joke. De Gaulle, he claimed, would say anything, would continually ask the same question, would frequently contradict himself. Conversation was the manner in which he made up his own mind.

But Frey was an unconditional admirer of de Gaulle. To the same Peyrefitte, much earlier, when he joined the Gaullist party, Frey said that his motto had to be that of the Jesuits who follow the Pope like a corpse ("perire ad cadaver").

Frey was proud of being a first-generation Gaullist. In a speech of 1960 he said that he had not joined de Gaulle two years before, but 20 years earlier. He had been behind him, not the history of a political party, but the history of France.

Born in 1913 in New Caledonia, in 1940 Frey had joined the Gaullist forces in the Pacific. He later fought in Africa and in France, ending the war as a Lieutenant. From 1945 to 1946 he was sent by de Gaulle on a secret mission to India and to China, then in 1947 when de Gaulle founded his political party, the Rally of the French people, he became one of the leaders.

He kept his family interests in New Caledonian nickel, and, thanks to this and to his contacts with the Rothschilds, he was able to help de Gaulle keep his residence in the rue de Solferino, no which he would otherwise have been obliged to sell. During the Algerian crisis of 1958 which brought de Gaulle to power, he went secretly to Algeria and worked in ways which still remain secret on behalf of the General.

Having established a record by being a minister for some 13 and a half consecutive years, Frey ended his career as President of the Constitutional Council from 1974 to 1983. He had been appointed by Pompidou, and he finished his term of office under Mitterrand. Under his direction the council became increasingly independent and concerned for human rights.

A mysterious man, subject to much suspicion and hostility, there are two things that one can safely say about him. He was courageous. And during the 1960s and 1970s he was the best-dressed man in French politics.

- Douglas Johnson



Photograph: Hulton Getty

Iain Anders

Iain Anders Robertson (Iain Anders), actor and legal executive; born London 2 February 1933; married; died Chichester, West Sussex 5 September 1997.

As Superintendent Jack McVite - nicknamed "The Biscuit" - the character actor Iain Anders was a familiar face to millions of television viewers in *Tugboat*, the gritty police series set on the streets of Glasgow. He was often seen battling

with the grim-faced Detective Chief Inspector Jim Taggart, played by Mark McManus, although the series' popularity ensured its continuation after McManus' death three years ago.

During his early years in *Tugboat*, Anders was himself sour-faced, but he later revealed a sense of humour and once appeared on the scene of a crime dressed as a Chinese mandarin after being called out as he was preparing to attend a fancy-dress party.

Grappling with the law was part of the actor's life on screen and off. Alongside his stage and screen career, Anders - born Iain Anders Robertson, of Scottish ancestry, in London in 1933 - worked as a legal executive in a leading south London firm of criminal lawyers, preparing briefs for the barristers defending its clients in court.

"The policemen I meet in my legal work tend to look puzzled and then assume I must have worked as a real policeman before," he once said.

Crime seemed a constant part of both careers. Before joining *Taggart*, Anders frequently appeared on television as both policemen and villains, in series such as *Z Cars*, *Softly Softly*, *Shoestring* and *Juliet Bravo*. He also acted in programmes that included *A Horseman Riding By*, *A Family Affair*, *Diana, A Family Man*, *Through a Strange Land*, *Jessie and Hi-de-Hil* and, during the Fifties and Sixties, performed on stage during seasons at the Byre Theatre, St Andrews, the

Gateway Theatre, Edinburgh, the Queen's Theatre, Hornchurch, the Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham, and the Salisbury Playhouse.

Although Anders did not appear in *Killer*, the 1983 mini-series that launched Mark McManus' character of Taggart, the actor joined the resulting *Taggart* series (1985-) from its second, three-part story, *Murder in Season* (1985), which featured Isla Blair as an opera singer falsely suspected of murdering her ex-husband's new

girlfriend. It attracted more than 10 million viewers in Britain, ensuring it a regular place on the ITV network.

Glenn Chandler's tough Glasgow policeman had been watched over by Superintendent Murray - known as "The Mint" - during the previous stories. But, when the actor Tom Watson decided not to continue in the role, Anders was brought in as Superintendent McVite. "The Biscuit". The series, which is Scottish Television's most successful programme and has

been screened in more than 40 countries, soon became noted for its gritty realism and location shooting on the streets of Glasgow. Anders's character mellowed over the years into a wise-cracking boss to the tough and cynical Taggart, often showing a humane side to his nature, such as on his discovery that a police officer was homosexual.

Anders is due to be seen in three *Taggart* stories still to be screened.

- Anthony Hayward



'The Biscuit'; Anders in Scottish TV's *Taggart*

MARRIAGES

HARBORNE: READ: On 13 September at Gudford, Surrey. Robert Harborne to Nicola Read.

DEATHS

CANE: John, husband of Muriel and father of Nicholas, died peacefully on 15 September 1997 in Worcester. Funeral service at Church of the Ascension, Worcester, 18 September. Interred in Burying Hill Cemetery, Farnham. Flowers only. Donations if desired to the Diabetic Association, c/o W.M. Spurkland Funeral Directors.

KITCHING: Alan, died 9 September 1997 in his 91st year at The Close Nursing Home, Burying. Burial. The funeral took

place on Monday 15 September 1997. Donations if desired to the Handel House Trust, c/o Colin Kitching, 28 Barnes Avenue, Chesham HP5 1AP.

Assessments for General BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS may be telephoned to 0171-224 1224 from 9am-5pm, 7 days a week, or 0171-293 2012, or faxed to 0171-293 2016, and are charged at 5p a line (VAT extra).

Thomas Goode, South Audley Street, London W1.

Changing of the Guard

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment, 1st Dragoon Guards, at Horse Guards, 11am. F Guards, Scots Guards mounts the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am. Band provided by the Scots Guards.

Royal ENGAGEMENTS

The Princess Royal, President of Patrons, Crime Concern, presents the British Crime Prevention Awards. Hall, Piccadilly, London W1; opens a Crime Street Carnival organised in aid of the King for the Children Association, Elizabeth Street, London SW1, and attends Starchie Entertainment Fund/UK1 "Ain't High Typical" Dinner at

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

Mr W. R. C. Peckett and Mrs E. M. Barou

The engagement is announced between Mr William Peckett FRCS, younger son of Dr and Mrs Brian Peckett of Pager, Bermuda, and Lizzie, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Baron, Baron under-wood, Staffordshire.

BIRTHDAYS

Mr Russ Abbott, comedian, 50; Miss Lauren Bacall, actress, 73; Mr Tony Carberry, jockey, 56; Mr George Chakiris, actor and dancer, 64; Professor Ken Costes, MEP, 67; Mr Peter Falk, television actor, 70; Lord Grimthorpe, soldier and company director, 82; Mr Charles Haughey, former Irish prime minister, 72; Lord Henderson of Bromington, former Clerk of the Parliaments, 75; Sir Anthony Hooper, High Court judge, 68; Mr Iain Horsbrugh, Principal, Guild-

hall School of Music and Drama, 56; Mr Andy Irvine, rugby player, 46; The Very Rev William Johnston, extra Chaplain to the Queen in Scotland, 74; Mr Kenny Jones, rock drummer, 45; Mr B.B. King, guitarist and blues singer, 72; Mr Lee Kuan Yew, former prime minister of Singapore, 74; Sir John Major, former Lord Justice of Appeal, 68; Sir John Page, former MP, 78; Baroness Pike, former President, Royal College of Nursing, 77; Maj-Gen Sir Roy Redgrave, 72; Lord Ryde of Eaton Hastings, former chairman, International Publishing Corporation, 81; Mrs Steve Shirley, life President, FI Group, 64; Mr David Smeaton, radio news correspondent, 61; Mr Mickey Stewart, cricketer, 65; Mr Peter Townsend, golfer, 51; Lord Walton of Detchant, former Warden of Green College, Oxford, 75; Mr David Wilshire MP, 54.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: King Henry V, 1387; Michael Ilarionovich Kutuzov, soldier and

diplomat, 1745; Nathan Mayer Rothschild, banker, 1777; Wenzel Gährtz, violinist and composer, 1794; William Marsden, physician and hospital founder, 1796; Sir Anthony Panizzi (Antonio Genesio Maria Panizzi), bibliophile and scholar, 1797; Francis Parkman, historian, 1823; Albert Ross Parsons, pianist, composer and author, 184

Clothier falls on his sword in Dalgety shake-up

Dalgety, the Winalot and Felix pet food group, has been laid low by a combination of the BSE crisis and the mis-managed integration of the Quaker European pet foods acquisition in 1995. Now, after two profits warnings in four months, it is parting company with its chief executive and selling two main businesses. Around £200m will be returned to long-suffering shareholders as a result.

Nigel Cope reports

Dalgety bowed to the inevitable yesterday when it announced a radical shake-up of its under-performing portfolio along with the resignation of its chief executive, Richard Clothier.

Mr Clothier, chief executive since 1993, was on a two-year contract and will be in line for a pay-off of up to £600,000. He will be replaced by Ken Hanna, finance director, who joined Dalgety in May. The company is expected to look outside to replace him.

Mr Clothier, who has spent the last 20 years at Dalgety, made his decision to quit at the weekend after the completion of a 10-week strategic review of the group's operations. The company said his departure was "by mutual agreement".

Dalgety chairman Sir Denys Henderson said: "He felt that the strategy was changing and the results had been disappointing. He took the honourable course to fall on his sword." He denied that the pay-off, which is subject to mitigation, represented a reward for failure even though Dalgety's shares have underperformed the market by over 60 per cent during Mr Clothier's tenure. "We are meeting the obligations in the contract as it is proper to do. I think he was disappointed and inevitably a little sad. But someone has to carry the can in these circumstances."

As part of the strategic review, Dalgety yesterday put two of its four main businesses up for sale. Buyers are being sought for its food ingredients business and Martin Brower, the US distribution operation that services McDonald's, the fast-food giant. The proceeds will be used to reduce £255m of debt and to return around

£200m to shareholders. The slimmed-down company will concentrate on three divisions: pet foods, the Pig Improvement Company and agricultural supplies.

The disposal could raise £300m to £400m, analysts said. Dalgety has appointed Lazard Frères to find buyers for the food ingredients business. Interested parties could include Kerry Group, the Irish food company, at a price of up to £200m. The flour milling operation, part of the food ingredients division, could be of interest to Green Core, the American group which has been expanding in the UK, and Associated British Foods. Analysts expect a price tag of around £125m.

The sale of the Martin Brower business, which will be overseen by Morgan Stanley, could attract an American buyer or management buyout. The business could be worth up to £90m, less a substantial tax charge.

Mr Hanna said Dalgety would remain a substantial business with £2bn of sales, 8,000 employees and the number two in the £5bn-a-year European pet food market.

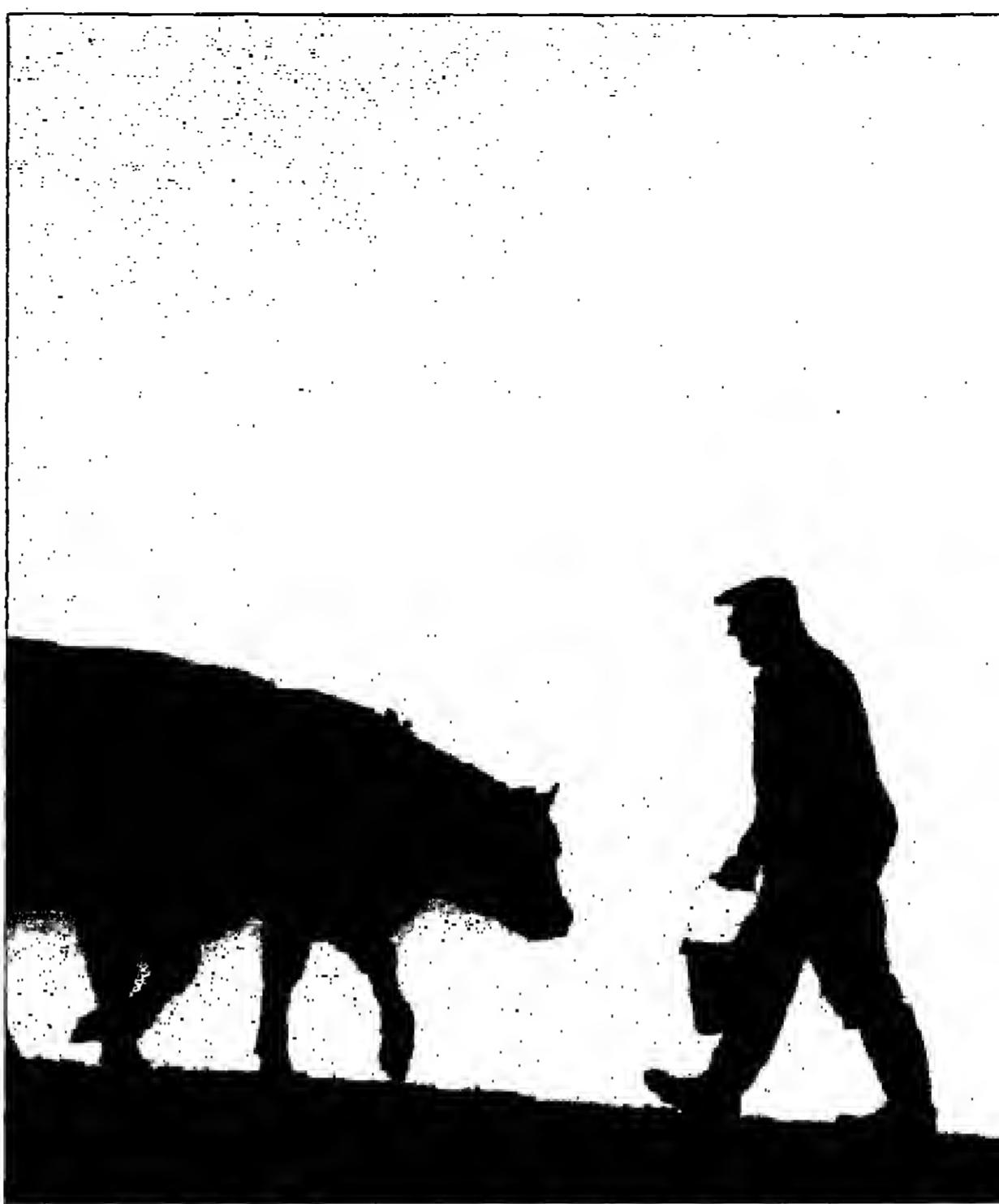
Though analysts welcomed the decision to introduce more focus in the business they said the key to its success would be its bid to restore the pet foods division to better financial health. Sir Denys said the £440m acquisition of Quaker's European pet foods division had been right but that the integration had been too slow. Costs had been too high and production record had been poor, he said.

The company pointed out that Dalgety has successful pet food brands such as Winalot and Felix and has 25 per cent of the European pet food market. It ranks behind Mars, whose Pedigree Petfoods division dominates the European market with a share of around 45 per cent. Nestlé, the number three, has just 7 per cent.

"If you can't get a decent return on it [pet food], they don't deserve to own it," said David Laing of Henderson Croft.

Failure to improve the pet foods operation would probably result in a takeover of Dalgety, ending 100 years of independence. However, analysts said a strike was unlikely at the current share price.

The shake-up at Dalgety ends a dismal year for the company which has been characterised by a poor share price perfor-



Down on the farm: Dalgety estimates the cost of BSE at £12m for the full year and the re-organisation of the pet foods division at around £64m. Chairman Richard Clothier announced his resignation after a company review

mance, large exceptional provisions, two profits warnings and a cut in the dividend by a third.

The year's results to June were in line with the July profits warning. Adjusted profits, before exceptional costs, fell from £102m to £66.2m. Pet food profits collapsed by £12m to £2.4m due to supply chain costs

which included the closure of three factories with the loss of 300 jobs. A further 300 will go in a shake-up in Europe.

There were £138m of exceptional costs including a cash element of £41m. Of the exceptional charges, £64m was for a re-organisation of the pet foods division and £12m related to the direct costs of BSE.

The full-year dividend was 14.5p against 22p last year.

Sir Denys said he would be seeing institutional shareholders today to present the results of the strategic review. The shares closed 0.5p higher at 274.5p.

Comment, page 25, and People & Business, page 27

Germany prepares to raise rates

The pound fell sharply against the mark yesterday after Bundesbank president Hans Tietmeyer gave a broad hint that German interest rates were set to rise, reducing the attraction for investors holding sterling. Tom Stevenson, Financial Editor, reports on the latest retreat by the recently high-flying pound.

Bundesbank president Hans Tietmeyer signalled an early rise in German interest rates yesterday when he said the central bank's scope to push through increases in the cost of money would narrow once the members of Europe's planned single currency were announced next spring.

The pound slumped in a three-month low against the German currency of under DM2.82 following the comments as investors gambled that the difference between British and German interest rates would narrow, making the pound relatively less attractive to hold.

The fall took the pressure off British exporters, who have struggled to compete with overseas competitors thanks to the high-flying pound. The rise in sterling has made British products increasingly expensive in overseas markets.

Sterling, which traded at DM2.30 a year ago, reached a peak value of DM3.07 in July on expectations that UK interest rates would rise to fend off inflationary pressures in the British economy. Over the past two months currency traders have reduced their forecasts for UK rates while at the same time upward pressure on German rates has increased.

Mr Tietmeyer said yesterday that although it was theoretically possible for the Bundesbank to change interest rates in the run-up to European monetary union on 1 January 1999, once EMU members are chosen in the spring of 1998, "the room to manoeuvre gets narrower".

Financial markets interpreted the remark as a sign that the Bundesbank had limited time to raise interest rates. Mr Tietmeyer's comments came after European Union finance ministers decided to create a de facto monetary union eight months before the euro's planned launch.

Power firms warned of mass defections

More than half of all electricity consumers could switch suppliers when the market is thrown open to competition next year, according to a survey published yesterday. The survey coincided with reports that Total may pull out of the deregulated domestic gas market.

Michael Horison and, below, Chris Godsmark report.

Electricity companies could be hit by mass customer defections when competition is introduced next April with as many as 12 million households switching suppliers, says the Coopers & Lybrand accountancy firm.

A survey released yesterday shows that 55 per cent of customers would definitely switch or consider doing so while only 29 per cent are committed to staying with their local supplier.

The best chance of returning to customers, suggests the report, lies in teaming up with nationally known brands such as Virgin or offering services such as electrical appliance repairs.

The survey is likely to send a chill through the industry since the estimate of the level of customer defection is significantly higher than that predicted either by the 14 public electricity suppliers or the industry regulator, Ofgem.

Geoff Green, head of energy, water and transport at Coopers & Lybrand, said there was little evidence of much loyalty among customers of the regional electricity companies even though a majority of consumers said they were satisfied with the service they got.

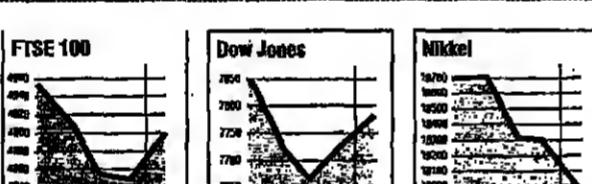
Mr Green warned suppliers it would be unwise to rely upon a combination of inertia and apparent customer satisfaction to protect their markets.

Competition is due to begin next April in parts of Scotland, Yorkshire, East Anglia and Kent and Sussex and then roll out to all 22 million domestic consumers by September.

Several suppliers have begun preparing for competition by setting up their own energy marketing businesses. Scottish Power, which owns Marwell, the electricity supplier for Merseyside and North Wales, and Southern Water, has formed an alliance with the Automobile Association to sell energy.

Comment, page 25

STOCK MARKETS



Dow Jones index and graph at 5pm

Indices

	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	4900.00	54.70	1.13	5098.00	2900.40	3.61
FTSE 250	4650.00	8.10	0.17	4720.40	3248.10	2.54
FTSE 350	2350.40	21.90	0.94	2450.00	1940.20	3.60
FTSE All Share	2510.22	20.21	0.88	2576.39	1955.79	3.58
FTSE All-Listed	2770.0	2.80	0.12	2734.20	2128.40	3.26
FTSE Banking	1265.1	2.80	0.22	1346.50	1198.70	3.27
FTSE AIM	1015.2	-0.20	-0.02	1136.00	1092.10	0.92
Dow Jones	7753.82	32.75	0.42	8259.31	5897.74	1.68
Nikkei	17955.80	-316.43	-1.73	21612.30	17303.65	0.85
Hong Kong	14630.65	160.19	1.11	16973.27	11548.70	2.84
Dax	3820.13	-34.88	-0.90	4438.03	2624.44	2.09

INTEREST RATES



Money Market Rates

Interest

	3 month	1 yr	5 yrs	10 yrs	20 yrs	Long bond	1 yr
UK	7.25	1.41	5.04	6.65	8.65	5.80	1.25
US	5.72	0.16	6.04	0.02	6.89	-0.45	7.10
Japan	0.57	0.07	0.64	-0.11	2.22	-0.72	0.67
Germany	3.28	0.18	3.63	0.31	5.64	-0.56	6.30

Bond Yields

Interest

	3 month	1 yr	5 yrs	10 yrs	20 yrs	Long bond	1 yr
UK	7.25	1.41	5.04	6.65	8.65	5.80	1.25
US	5.72	0.16	6.04	0.02	6.89	-0.45	7.10
Japan	0.57	0.07	0.64	-0.11	2.22	-0.72	0.67
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Cable & Wireless writes off £200m after merger

Cable & Wireless
Communications (CWC), the £6bn merged cable group, is to write off £200m to cover the cost of restructuring. The news emerged as CWC gave the first indications of its performance since the merger and pledged to make annual savings of £20m.

Chris Godsmark reports

The decision by Graham Wallace, CWC's chief executive, to issue the group's first trading statement yesterday partly reflected continuing concerns about the company's share price, which has fallen

steadily since the merger was completed in April. Yesterday the shares dropped a further 13p to 242p, down from 300p in April, as analysts registered surprise at the group's decision to press ahead with a £1bn investment programme this year.

More than £600m of the investment was earmarked for an expansion of the cable and long-distance telephone network, 58 per cent of which has been completed. A further £250m would cover connections to homes, while the remaining £170m would be spent on a new computer billing system.

The provisions of £200m were larger than the £125m of write-offs originally forecast by analysts. The 40 per cent cut in the group's management, with the loss of around 400 jobs, cost £45m, while other provisions included £55m to cover a reduced

valuation of computer systems and £53m of property write-downs.

Mr Wallace defended the provisions. "When you pull four organisations together you've got to take a pretty close look at costs," he said. He gave an upbeat assessment of CWC's recent performance, as the company yesterday unveiled its new marketing campaign using the brand Cable & Wireless, also the name of its majority shareholder, and backed by a £50m advertising promotion.

Total revenues in the three months to the end of June rose by 13 per cent, to £551m, compared with the same quarter the year before. The merger combined Mercury's long-distance network with cable operators Bell Cablemedia, Nynex Cable-Comms and Videotron.

CWC also pointed to an increase in the number of homes taking its services. Penetration for telephony offerings rose from 20.1 per cent to 22.6 per cent, with 772,209 subscribers, while cable television penetration edged up by 1 percentage point to 19.1 per cent.

Mr Wallace said bundled tariffs, which offered telephone line rental and five television channels for £11.99 a month, would boost customer numbers.

He said the rationalisation would bring efficiency savings of £106m compared with the former spending plans of the four companies translating into a £20m boost to CWC's profits. Last year's profits, for the 12 months to the end of March, were £80m on a pro-forma basis, suggesting earnings this year could be above £100m.

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

Inchcape on track for recovery

Inchcape, the car distributor and marketing group, is finally on the road to recovery after years in the wilderness. Under the astute guidance of Sir Colin Marshall, who flew in from British Airways last year, Inchcape has slimmed down its ragbag of businesses by selling off both Bain Hogg, the insurance broker, and its testing services division, raising £540m in the process.

Inchcape's large restructuring programme, which has seen 2,000 jobs go, is also beginning to pay off. Group profits fell to £78.8m (£82.6m) in the half year to June. However, strip out the exceptional, plus the adverse impact of the strong pound, and underlying earnings improved by 15 per cent.

The car import business has led the recovery. Strong growth in the number of Japanese cars shipped into the UK and Hong Kong from manufacturers such as Toyota pushed operating profits up 21 per cent to £42.7m.

With all the painful cuts completed

cent to just over 600p. Though the share price has been slow to recover, Mr. Leung's hard line looks vindicated.

In 18 months, he has closed or sold over a third of a sprawling business focus on high-margin speciality chemicals, cut 2,000 jobs to 5,500 and slashed the number of manufacturing sites by 45 per cent.

As the half-year figures to June show, the resulting focus on more profitable areas such as fine chemicals, pigments and chemicals used in electronics has boosted margins and profits.

Excluding currency, which slipped around £25m of profits, most of it in translation, the pre-tax total rose over a fifth to £60.4m on underlying sales up 2 per cent to £395m.

Laporte now also has around £100m cash following the recent sale of US adhesives and sealants for £90m.

- there are only some £5m to £10m of disposals left including the freight forwarding business - Mr. Leung must prove he can spend his cash wisely and generate real growth. There were no firm ideas given away yesterday, just talk of bolt-ons and organic growth.

Laporte's heavy, £70m-a-year, capital investment programme will take some of the cash and there is still room to grow margins from more efficient use of plant space, while volumes should benefit from a new fine chemical factory in the US. But Laporte could spend up to £500m and still have comfortable interest cover.

Though Mr. Leung says he will not be

Thorn shares hit by US court ruling

Shares in Thorn, hit their lowest yet yesterday, plunging 9 per cent to close at 151.5p, after the company said a New Jersey court ruling could force it to pay \$120m (£75m) in damages for overcharging customers at its Rent-A-Center stores.

The company, which has given investors a rough ride since it split from EMi last August, admitted yesterday that it was considering making a provision to cover the costs. Thorn announced only four months ago that it had been forced to make a £17m provision against possible damages relating to a similar case in Minnesota.

City analysts expressed concern yesterday that other suits could incur substantial costs. Claims in Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and Texas are still outstanding, and observers said there were worries that customers in other states would follow suit.

One analyst said: "It's very difficult to know when the next spot on the horizon will appear. Some other states may decide to join the bandwagon."

Thorn said it would appeal against the court's judgment, which ruled that the Rent-A-Center stores owed customers - many of whom are on a low income - fees and interest paid for home furnishings. The judgment said customers were entitled to recover 40 per cent of what they had paid, but under New Jersey law Thorn could be liable for three times that figure.



Andrew Teare: Soon after his departure 18 months ago, problems at English China Clays emerged. The company has since announced 400 redundancies

ITC rejects request for more ads

The Independent Television Commission yesterday dealt a blow to advertisers but pleased the ITV companies by blocking a request from the Incorporated Society of British Advertisers (Isba) to increase the number of minutes per hour dedicated to advertising on television. Isba, which has campaigned tirelessly for increased advertising time, had asked the ITC to consider bringing the time given over to advertising in line with European countries, where terrestrial television networks are allowed to carry advertising for nine minutes every hour. ITV currently carries an average of seven minutes of advertising each hour.

ITV companies had been against Isba's proposals as an increase in the number of minutes available would allow broadcasters to charge less for airtime.

IN BRIEF

BBA sells business

BBA has sold its Hafely Trench business for £164m to a new group formed by CVC Capital, a venture capital group. BBA said last week that the operation, which makes components for the high-voltage transmission industry, was under review, along with Ajax, another electrical business, which is expected to be sold soon. The proceeds from the Hafely sale will be used to reduce debt and allow BBA to build its friction, non-wovens and aviation businesses. The book value of the assets being sold was £70.4m. In the 12 months to December, Hafely Trench made pre-tax profits of £17.5m.

Redrow chairman warns on rocketing house prices

Redrow, the Cheshire-based builder with a reputation for accurately predicting the housing market, has turned cautious on London house prices. And, as its own profits soar, it sees no sign of a boom.

Magnus Grimond reports.

Steve Morgan, Redrow's multi-millionaire executive chairman, correctly called the top of the market in the late 1980s. Yesterday he said he felt "uncomfortable" with house prices which have jumped more than 20 per cent in the last 12 months. "I don't see a major collapse of the London market, as we saw in '88, but it is still prudent to be cautious and we are not keen to be overexposed to it," he said.

His comments came as Redrow reported a 36 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £36.1m for the 12 months to June. The results were produced with a 16 per cent rise in completions to 2,629 houses and an 8 per cent rise in the average selling price to £94,000.

The group said the average plot replacement cost for its land bank had jumped to £20,000 in the past year, compared with a historic average of £15,650.

Robert Jones, former Conservative minister for planning and construction, has been appointed a non-executive director.

However, he said there was "absolutely no sign" of a boom in the rest of the country and, indeed, there was some evidence that interest rates were starting to dampen prices, although the death of the Princess of Wales had also taken its toll.

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Three on Morgan list
Morgan Crucible is expected to announce shortly that an internal candidate will succeed Bruce Farmer as managing director. Three names are thought to be on the short list - Ian Norris, chairman of the carbon business, Vic Maundrell, head of the technical ceramics division, and Nigel Howard, who runs thermal ceramics. Mr Farmer, who is one year away from the retiring age of the two most recent chairman, refused to comment on his successor, beyond saying that there would be a planned, orderly succession from within the group. Morgan reported an 11 per cent rise in profits to £56.1m for the first half of the year and is raising the interim dividend 6 per cent to 7p.

Energis alliance

Energis, the business phone group owned by National Grid, revealed a ground-breaking five-year alliance with Nortel, the telecommunications equipment giant. The link-up, called "partners in telephony", will cut delivery times for Energis customers and cut the operator's investment costs significantly. The first agreement includes a contract for Nortel to supply 20 switches, which route calls, for the Energis network. The two companies said the alliance would also involve collaboration on future research and development programmes.

New jobs at Anglian

Anglian Water will today announce the creation of 50 new customer service jobs, most of which will be based in an expanded call centre in Hartlepool. Anglian bought Hartlepool Water in July for £19m in a bid to compete with water companies outside its area. The jobs will raise Hartlepool Water's workforce by 50 per cent.

Hunting in black

Hunting, the oil, defence and aviation group, returned to the black with a pre-tax profit of £20.9m for the six months to June compared with a loss of £14.2m in the same period of last year. Underlying profits increased 8 per cent, despite the strength of the pound which cost the group £1.5m. The improvement was driven by a strong performance from its oil division and a growth in sales of munitions used for the Apache helicopter. The interim dividend is 3p.

COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Stephensons (I)	115m (128m)	7.16m (7.37m)	5.1p (7.1p)	1.1p (1.1p)
Brill Polymers (I)	223m (195m)	11.1m (7.4m)	18.75p (21.55p)	-
City Technology (F)	18.9m (18.0m)	7.85m (5.16m)	10.65p (8.57p)	5.27p (1.1p)
CMG Properties (I)	4.4m (3.2m)	1.8m (1.02m)	3.5p (4.8p)	1.4p (1.3p)
Opposite Numbers (I)	145.2m (147.2m)	2.89m (2.25m)	8.5p (6.2p)	2.5p (2.2p)
Delphy (F)	4.14m (4.17m)	7.1m (6.89m)	14.4p (22.7p)	*14.5p (22.8p)
English China Clays (I)	413m (400m)	41.6m (35.7m)	9.48p (8.95p)	5.5p (5.5p)
Europcar (I)	85.1m (76.5m)	7.02m (5.38m)	87p (58p)	3p (3p)
Haventec Europe (I)	31.2m (25.0m)	2.55m (2.01m)	1.5p (1.1p)	1.75p (1.45p)
Hechtel Group (I)	27.4m (22.1m)	1.85m (2.67m)	1.92p (3.28p)	1.65p (1.85p)
Hunting (I)	7.17m (6.82m)	20.8m (14.2m)	5.7p (2.55p)	3p (3p)
Indave (I)	2.8m (2.2m)	85.0m (75.3m)	5.1p (7.2p)	4.40p (4.20p)
Independent Radio (I)	1.5m (1.48m)	-1.8m (4.75m)	-4.1p (-7.5p)	-1p (-1p)
Laporte (I)	35.9m (41.6m)	38.7m (38.4m)	124.8p (22.0p)	*9.0p (5.65p)
Morgan Crucible (I)	45.1m (45.9m)	56.1m (50.5m)	15.2p (14.5p)	7.10p (6.00p)
Moving House Price (I)	7.8m (7.2m)	0.70m (0.52m)	1.36p (1.02p)	1.5p (1.25p)
Proforce Group (I)	17.0m (14.4m)	3.22m (2.21m)	3.0p (3.0p)	3.0p (3.0p)
Redrow (I)	225m (203m)	38.1m (25.5m)	11.4p (8.5p)	3.8p (3.2p)
Reynolds Group (I)	57.2m (55.1m)	7.18m (7.0m)	8.7p (7.7p)	2.4p (2.2p)
SCI Entertainment (F)	6.14m (7.07m)	1.42m (-4.29m)	-1.05p (-4.03p)	1.11p (-1.11p)
Stretford (I)	18.0m (22.3m)	6.17m (5.27m)	-	8p (8p)
Shires & Fisher (I)	35.6m (32.7m)	2.01m (1.54m)	7.2p (4.8p)	2.1p (1.8p)
Star Pharmaceutics (I)	23.1m (21.0m)	3.1m (2.7m)	-0.2p (0.80p)	0.1p (-0.1p)
Starwest Software (I)	40.45m (43.0m)	0.17m (0.08m)	0.5p (0.31p)	0.1p (-0.1p)
Starwest (I)	18.2m (4.5m)	1.5m (0.85m)	3.8p (2.2p)	0.5p (0.4p)
Tavis Stores (I)	28.9m (28.0m)	22.4m (17.2m)	14.8p (11.2p)	3.20p (3.00p)
TMG Stores (I)	25.4m (24.8m)	10.4m (8.8m)	8.51p (6.36p)	3.25p (3.00p)
Water City of London (I)	-	2.58m (1.55m)	0.92p (0.50p)	0.1p (-0.1p)
Westinghouse (I)	31.0m (31.5m)	2.93m (2.95m)	8.25p (8.31p)	2.7p (2.7p)
WorleyParsons (I)	65.7m (67.7m)	6.55m (5.35m)	8.6p (7.0p)	3.65p (3.00p)

(F) - First (I) - Interim *EPS is pre-exceptional. **Dividend to be paid as a P.D.

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FINANCIAL JOURNAL
OF THE YEAR

Pet foods cause more damage than BSE

Dalgety is one of Britain's biggest animal feeds companies, so it was always inevitable that its fortunes would get intimately caught up in the BSE crisis. When the scandal broke, Dalgety was instantly fingered as one of the companies responsible. It was no worse than most others in the industry and immediately changed its practices when the horrific side-effects of feeding animal remains to animals became apparent. But the damage was done.

Looking at Dalgety now, it is tempting to view its huge losses, boardroom changes and savage dividend as a kind of divine retribution - a reaping of the bitter harvest of mad cow disease.

Actually, BSE is only one of a number of causes behind Dalgety's woes. The real villain of the piece is pet foods. There was a BSE element here too. The company was hit by an export ban and had to reformulate some of its flavours as a result. But there was bad judgement aplenty too. When Dalgety paid £440m for the pet-foods division of Quaker's two years ago, some analysts questioned the deal's wisdom. Why go into battle with the much stronger Mars-owned Pedigree Petfoods, they asked. And would the southern European countries such as Italy and Spain, really start feeding Fido with posh canned delights rather than scraps? Yes, this really was advanced as a rip-roaring market opportunity for Dalgety.

As it turned the ensuing battle with Mars was only part of the problem. Dalgety simply failed to manage the business it had bought. The integration was botched, costs were left too high and pro-

duction facilities were inefficient. New management was brought in, but too late.

Richard Clothier, the now departed chief executive, has clearly had his fair share of bad luck over the past couple of years but there were also lots of mistakes and the company took too long to sort them out. He is also a ringing reminder of the dangers of opting for the "inside" choice of chief executive over the new-broom outsider. With 20 years of service behind him at Dalgety, he was not the right man to be at the helm when the company hit stormy waters.

RECs not on the endangered list

The one question that Coopers & Lybrand has failed to answer in its analysis of the deregulated electricity market is, in many respects, the most important one. How many new entrants will take the plunge when the regional electricity companies start to lose their domestic monopolies next spring?

If its research is correct then there is huge pent-up demand on the part of consumers to switch from their local REC even for very modest price reductions. Satisfaction with an existing supplier will not, it seems, guarantee continuing loyalty once electricity can be bought at a bank, a supermarket or a petrol station. Some 55 per cent of households say they would definitely switch or consider doing so for as little as 2 per cent off their bills. That is

more than double the number that have switched supplier since gas competition was introduced in the south west.

It is one thing having 22 million customers just begging to be freed from their local REC. It is another creating a competitive market. On the face of it, electricity supply is not particularly attractive. Most of the money is made by generating and distributing electricity over the national and local wires, not by pumping it the last few yards to the home.

Moreover, even if Virgin, Barclays or Shell did enter the market, they would have no direct control over the service their customers receive. There is another side to the argument, however. New entrants will be trading on the strength of their brand, not on whether their electricity is better than the chap next door.

The other argument is that what Virgin et al are really after is another way of accessing the customer so as to sell other products and services. Here's your electricity and by the way we can also service your electrical appliances. While we're at it, what about a household contents policy and, since you ask, yes, we also do life policies and PEPs.

This may sound plausible but experience of the deregulated gas market suggests it is improbable. No supermarkets or banks bothered to set up in competition to British Gas and two of the rival energy suppliers who did enter the market have already withdrawn or are in the process of doing so. The RECs may not be quite such an endangered species as Coopers thinks.

No solutions for global integration

From the comfortable vantage point of our well-off, air-conditioned, Western lives, it is easy to view the process of globalisation, deregulation, convergence and integration sweeping the world economy as an entirely benign, even benevolent thing, that will enhance the economic prospects of developing and developed countries in equal measure. Not so, says the latest Trade and Development report from the United Nations, which comes up with the disturbing conclusion that these apparently irresistible forces and trends are much more likely to increase further present inequalities and divisions. The report's reminder of the way faith in markets and economic openness quickly degenerated in the 1920s and 1930s into protectionism and totalitarianism may seem just a trifle alarmist; in an age when democracy and capitalism seem finally to have emerged triumphant, it is hard to imagine such a dramatic change of events and perspective.

Even so, the report poses some very worrying questions about what most of us would see as an entirely desirable set of economic developments and objectives. The report lists a number of alarming features of the contemporary world economy. For starters it is growing too slowly to generate sufficient employment with adequate pay or to alleviate poverty; the gap between the developed and the developing world is continuing to widen steadily; everywhere, the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer while shrinkage in the middle classes is a feature both of the developed and developing world; in the developed world, finance is gaining the upper hand over industry and endeavour with the result that trading in existing assets is more lucrative than creating wealth through investment; the gap between skilled and unskilled labour is becoming a global problem with falls of up to 30 per cent in the real wages of unskilled workers in some developed countries during the 1980s.

If all this sounds like that tired old "third world" complaint about globalisation - the whole process is designed by the West in order to benefit the West and exploit the poorer nations and people of the world - that is actually not what the United Nations is trying to say here. The report leaves no doubt that the adverse consequences of international economic disintegration, were current trends to be put into reverse, would be borne by those that can least afford it. Instead the UN urges a more imaginative, sensitive and phased approach to integration. This unfortunately is where the UN's table thumping comes over all wishy-washy. Other than urging policy makers the world over to try harder, the report is unable to offer much in the way of solutions. All the same, the UN deserves some credit for highlighting the darker side of global integration. For the great bulk of the world, the process has yet to yield significant benefits. And if it doesn't eventually do so, the people will speak, with possibly calamitous consequences for everyone.

UN sounds warning on perils of inequality

The world is in danger of a repeating the mistakes of a 1920s and 1930s, a United Nations agency warns today in a report on international trade and investment. Diane Coyle reports on the claim that growing inequality raises the threat of a backlash against the process of globalisation.

The increasing integration of the world economy through trade and investment flows is being accompanied by greater inequality within and between nations, according to the annual report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad). This could provoke a political backlash in the developed or developing countries which would roll back the benefits of economic integration.

The report, from one of the branches of the UN traditionally least sympathetic to free market policies, recommends slowing the pace at which developing countries are opening up their economies. Rather it favours carefully managed and phased integration into the world economy.

Unctad also criticises the deregulation of financial markets that has allowed capital to flow freely around the globe. Although carefully distancing itself from its earlier history as a vocal opponent of multinationals which invest in developing countries, it claims in the new report that the freedom of the financial markets has undermined long-term investment, echoing a common left-wing sentiment.

Finance has gained an upper hand over industry, and renters over investors. Trading in existing assets is often more lucrative

than creating wealth through new investment, the report says. In a sharp contrast to the cautious optimism expressed by other international agencies, such as the World Bank in its annual economic outlook published last week, Unctad says the world economy will continue to grow too slowly to make a dent in poverty and unemployment. It is against this subdued background that the new report predicts growing political tensions.

The 1920s and 1930s provide a stark and disturbing reminder of how quickly faith in markets and economic openness can be overwhelmed by political events, it says. Nor should there be any doubt that the burden of such international economic disintegration would be borne by those who can least afford it.

The available figures suggest income distribution has become more unequal in almost all regions of the world during the past 20 years, with the possible exception of South Asia.

The increase in inequality has been particularly pronounced in China and the transition economies of eastern Europe. Inequality also grew in nine of the 16 rich economies in the world.

The report suggests that not only has growth of the world economy slowed, but the growth that takes place has also become more unequalising. During the Eighties, the rich got much richer but the income share of the middle class fell the world over. This phenomenon appears to be closely related to a sudden shift in policies giving a much greater role to market forces.

Unctad does not go so far as to call for a reversal of these forces. But it advises minimising the danger of a political backlash by making sure future trade liberalisation favours the poorest countries.



Paper chase: Another consolidation of the regional newspaper market is expected after Newsquest Media Group's flotation on the market next month. The float is expected to raise about £100m

Predatory Newsquest plans £100m float

Newsquest Media Group, the regional paper company formed by a management buyout at the end of last year, is floating on the market. The move will make the chairman a multi-millionaire, and could spark another round of consolidation.

Cathy Newman reports

Newsquest Media Group, Britain's third-largest regional newspaper group, is to raise around £100m when it floats on the main market next month. Jim Brown, chairman, said the money would be used in part for further substantial acquisitions, and he hinted that the group could make

a move on United News & Media's regional newspaper group if it came up for sale.

Mr Brown, who engineered the £210m buyout of the group from Reed International, will be worth about £4m through the deal. He will, together with five other senior management, own roughly 5 per cent of the company after the flotation.

Newsquest, which owns 173 newspapers, including the world's oldest newspaper, the *Berrow Worcester Journal*, will be valued at around £500m.

City analysts were divided over whether Newsquest had chosen the right climate to come to the market. Some brokers have

forecast a sharp downturn in advertising revenue which would hit regional news stocks hard. However, Derek Terperton, media analyst at Teather & Greenwood, said there was no substance to such fears. Newsquest was well-placed to expand in an industry which had been consolidating over the last 18 months.

Mr Brown said Newsquest would "have to take a look" if United Provincial Newspapers came on the market.

Kohlberg Kravis Roberts which backed Newsquest's management buyout and owns a 73 per cent stake will retain around 40 per cent of the business after flotation.

He added: "Thailand is likely to remain difficult for some time. The combined operating profits of Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore, however, represent only 5 per cent of the group's operating profits."

Inchcape lost £7m at its Russian Coca-Cola bottling plant, where Inchcape has been undercut on the black market.

Inchcape announced a fall in headline pre-tax profits to £78.8m (£82.8m) but underlying earnings rose 15 per cent. Profits from the marketing division fell to £15.2m (£17.2m).

Investment column, page 24

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East Asia performed economic 'miracle' by catching up



HAMISH MCRAE

Why do some countries get rich when others don't? If you think about it, almost nothing else matters in economics. Alas, it is one of those elementary and fascinating questions to which economists usually stumble inadequate answers. If we knew, it would all be easy: put in the right conditions and everyone would be rich. Instead, economists have focused on more arcane economic equations that create elaborate theories on things you really do not want to know.

But there is a small school of economists who try to answer the really difficult questions, even if their answers have to be hedged with qualifications. Two brands of inquiry are attracting much practical attention. One is whether there is something special about the rapid growth of East Asian countries; the other, to what extent does closer economic integration between apparently similar developed countries boost their collective growth.

Examination of the first has been spurred by the explosion of growth in South-east Asia. Singapore and Hong Kong (seen as a separate entity from China) have achieved the income per head typical of European and North American nations – both have a higher income per head than the UK. While developing countries lifted their economic performance in the past 15 years, Asia has massively outperformed the rest. Some indication of this out-performance is shown in the graph on the left, taken from the annual report of the IMF. Not only is the region producing rather more even growth, but the range of 6-10 per cent is outstanding by any criterion.

Gradually a body of work is being put together to explain this out-performance. The overall message is that this is not a miracle but can be explained mostly in terms of catch-up. East Asia has created a business-friendly environment which welcomes

foreign investment. We live in an age where information can cross national boundaries in a few moments and this investment transfers not just money but brings know-how: know-how to manufacture in the first instance but subsequently how to market and develop new products. But the first phase of growth in East Asia has been driven by low wages, which has combined with technology transfer to enable the region to produce western quality goods at much lower prices.

After a while, the very success pushes up wage rates so that labour costs in, say, Korea, are now higher than in the UK. Success in the middle market forces countries further upmarket, a transition they find difficult to achieve. Japan, the classic case of catch-up, has hit a glass ceiling: it has had the slowest growth rate over the last five years of any of the Group of Seven.

This leads to the second question. Once countries are no longer catching up, how might they improve their performance? This is a practical question for Europe at the moment for it seems that the better performance of western Europe since the end of the war has been closely associated with closer economic integration. Take for example Germany.

The second graph shows what might have happened to German growth had it continued on the slow and steady upward path established in the second half of the last century, and in particular how growth leaps upwards after 1950. Similar results come from other western European countries, which suggest that growth in international trade enabled a step-change in economic performance.

Both world wars saw a sudden dip in output, but after the first war growth resumed at the pre-war rate, whereas it leapt upwards after the second. But in the 1920s there was relatively little trade liberalisation (and

1995 rights issue at 335p. And the current share price? 274.5p, a nice little loss-maker all round.

"I'll get my money back, don't you worry about that," he said yesterday. He also bought a few shares at 270p when he joined the board last year. So at least one part of his investment is showing a profit, however modest.

Even by the standards of its profession, a management-consultancy's attempt to draw a link between its international ambitions and the marriage of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert looks a little tenuous. But the consultancy – Roland Berger & Partner – is German, and last night it played host to the denizens of the expatriate German business community at London's Victoria and Albert Museum to celebrate "the strong business relationship between Britain and Germany today", and to mark its own 30th birthday.

If you have not heard of an operation that employs 700

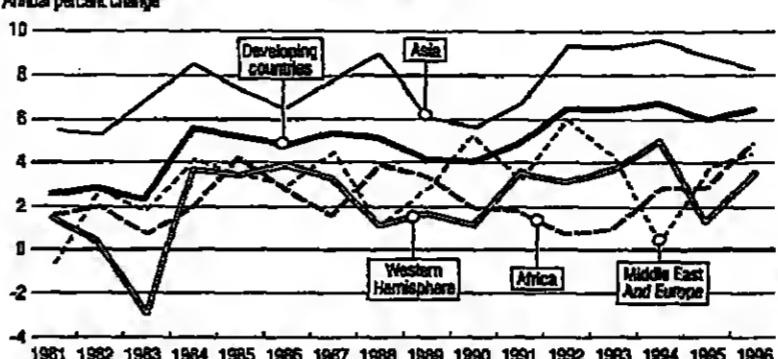
consultants around the world, producing fees last year of more than £150m, do not be dismayed.

Still run by Roland Berger, himself in his 60th year, it has just 55 professionals in the UK.

But since the London arm is now headed by the remarkably youthful-looking Tim Simpson, former UK managing director of Arthur D Little, and Ian Hay Davison, who helped make Arthur Andersen the force it is today before chairing a whole range of things from

Why do some countries grow?

Annual percent change



So if you are a long way behind you do not particularly need to invent anything yourself. You simply apply other people's inventions and you will catch up with the leaders. But to do so you need to apply appropriate policies.

But what if you are at the frontier, if you are, say, Switzerland, with the highest standard of living in the world? I suppose Professor Ben-David's response would be to press on with trade liberalisation and become even more specialised. That would seem in common sense. I suppose too that it is important to avoid waste: to fine-tune an economy so that scarce capital and scarce human skills are not blown on projects which do not yield an adequate return.

At the end of the day, though, if the world's technology is delivering only 2 per cent growth and you are at the forefront of that technology, you have to learn to live with that sort of advance.

Indeed, it is worse than that. Much of the fruits of that additional productivity will be mopped up by adverse demographic factors. If there are fewer people of working age relative to children and the old, workers will have to accept lower living standards than otherwise would be the case, to support people not at work. It is interesting that real take-home pay has hardly risen in France and Germany over the last 15 years despite good growth in productivity.

I would add a further element. GNP per head, the usual measure of economic performance, is itself flawed. For example, if there is an increase in car crime and people as a result have to put alarms in their cars, that shows up as growth in GNP. But living standards are not higher as a result of the increase in crime; in fact they are lower. So any rise in GNP that is the result of increased disruption in society – more legal fees, higher bureaucratic costs – should be taken with the caution it deserves.

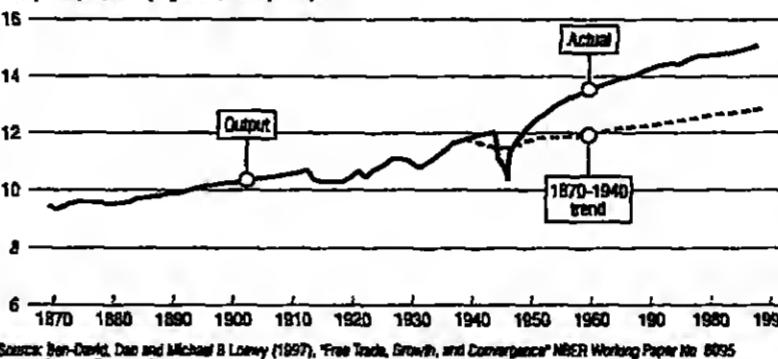
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Aviv University. The core of his argument is two-fold. One is that the world technology is increasing productivity at a rate which changes over time: from near-zero growth for centuries to around 2 per cent over the last 100 years. The other is that countries can move themselves from technical laggards to the forefront of technology with the right policies.

These two issues – what makes countries grow and how international trade assists growth – will be discussed today at a meeting organised by the Centre for Economic Policy Research, starting with a presentation by Professor Dan Ben-David of Tel-

Germany's growth, 1870-1989

Real per capita, GDP (Log scale, 1985 prices)



Source: Ben-David, Due and Michael B Loewy (1997), 'Free Trade, Growth, and Convergence' NBER Working Paper No 6025

PEOPLE & BUSINESS



Encouragement for armchair investors everywhere – even captains of industry can call it wroog when it comes to their private investments. Step forward Sir Denis Henderson, former chairman of ICI and now in the chair at Delgaty, the petfood group turned dogs

breed.

Sir Denis was man enough to admit yesterday that prior to joining the Delgaty board he had bought a few shares in a private capacity.

He first bought in at 316p and then subscribed to the

1995 rights issue at 335p. And the current share price? 274.5p, a nice little loss-maker all round.

"I'll get my money back, don't you worry about that," he said yesterday.

He also bought a few shares at 270p when he joined the board last year. So at least one part of his investment is showing a profit, however modest.

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a link between its international ambitions and the marriage of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert looks a little tenuous.

But the consultancy – Roland Berger & Partner – is German, and last night it played host to the denizens of the expatriate German business community at London's Victoria and Albert Museum to celebrate "the strong business relationship between Britain and Germany today", and to mark its own 30th birthday.

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consultants around the world, producing fees last year of more than £150m, do not be dismayed.

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But since the London arm is now headed by the remarkably youthful-looking Tim Simpson, former UK managing director of Arthur D Little, and Ian Hay Davison, who helped make Arthur Andersen the force it is today before chairing a whole range of things from

storehouse and the publisher of this very newspaper to the Hong Kong Securities Review Committee, the chances are things are going to get a little livelier.

Some bankers never throw in the towel, unfortunately. Rodger McArthur, chief of the Sainsbury Bank venture set up by the supermarket giant and his own Bank of Scotland, was never going to give up after being invited by the NCR group to address its banking conference in Bali.

Unable to attend in person, he agreed to deliver his address via satellite.

Because of the time difference, that meant he had to perform live – garbed in a grocer's white coat and pork pie hat and standing in front of a display of breakfast cereals – from Sainsbury branch in Glasgow at the ungodly hour of 4am.

But while the pictures got through, the sound didn't. Never one to give up, Mr McArthur borrowed the cameraman's mobile phone and

gave his speech. That phone, however, packed up and he hastily had to borrow another mobile from the sound engineer.

Unfortunately for the Asian audience, Mr McArthur's persistence meant they had to endure his favourite banking joke: "What's the difference between a barker and a supermarket trolley?"

"You can get more alcohol in a barker..."

Whatever else you do Mr McArthur, don't give up the day job.

Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Sterling	1 month	3 months	Dollar	1 month	3 months	D-Mark
UK	10000	22163	22118	62527	62544	62543	62543
Australia	22163	22121	22121	62527	62544	62543	62543
Austria	22163	22121	22121	62527	62544	62543	62543
Belgium	58207	58104	58104	77079	36324	36320	20530
Canada	22163	22121	22121	62527	62544	62543	62543
Denmark	58207	58104	58104	77079	36324	36320	20530
ECU	14301	14325	14325	62527	62544	62543	62543
Finland	84229	83964	83964	52550	52550	52550	52550
France	84229	83964	83964	52550	52550	52550	52550
Germany	84229	83964	83964	52550	52550	52550	52550
Greece	44503	44542	44542	27755	27755	27755	27755
Hong Kong	12420	12420	12420	72575	72575	72575	72575
Ireland	10591	10591	10591	12420	12420	12420	12420
Italy	12420	12420	12420	72575	72575	72575	72575
Japan	12420	12445	12445	12420	12420	12420	12420
Malaysia	47638	47642	47642	47725	29704	29704	29704
Mexico	12420	12420	12420	72575	72575	72575	72575
New Zealand	22163	22121	22121	62527	62544	62543	62543
Netherlands	22163	22121	22121	62527	62544	62543	62543
Norway	11633	11633	11633	72575	72575	72575	72575
Portugal	12420	12420	12420	72575	72575	72575	72575
Saudi Arabia	60157	60156	60156	37605	37605	37605	37605
Singapore	24952	24933	24933	15065	15065	15065	15065
South Africa	74601	74601	74601	47529	47529	47529	47529
Spain	12420	12420	12420	72575	72575	72575	72575
Sweden	12420	12420	12420	72575	72575	72575	72575
UK	581	581	581	22163	22121	22121	22121
US	44503	44542	44542	27755	27755	27755	27755

Bond Yields

Country	3 mth	1 yr	2 yr	5 yr	10 yr
Australia	485	485	485	500	500
Belgium	520	520	520	520	520
Canada	520	520	520	520	520
Denmark	434	434	434	434	434
France	500	500	500	500	500
Germany	328	328	328	328	

MacLaurin fails to break down barrier

The decision of the counties to reject the most radical of the proposals for changes to English cricket was not a surprise. Derek Pringle, Cricket Correspondent, believes that the plans failed to address the game's problems

Most of the players who sanctioned change wanted it. The chairman of the ECB, Lord MacLaurin, wanted it, and according to those convinced of the game's decline, cricket wanted it. Crucially, however, 12 of the 19 votes of the First Class Forum, the ones who could actually implement such a thing, did not agree, and cricket's Brave New World of a two-division championship has ended up as afternoon tea as usual.

As expected it was probably an "us and them" vote, with counties like Lancashire, Surrey, Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire - those six who own Test match grounds - likely to have voted for two divisions, while the others opposed it. Instead, an "all play all" championship with increased prize money remains, the only change being the addition of a knock-out "Super Cup" for the top eight, to replace the Benson and Hedges Cup. This is in addition to a two-division National One-day League and an expanded "FA Cup-style" Natwest Trophy.

To those who have dealt with the counties either as players or as members of the media our correspondent is twice

blessed, or cursed, depending on your outlook), the outcome is not that surprising. Neither of the two more radical proposals, the ECB's three-conference system or the two divisions, really provided a vastly superior model to the current status quo.

From the moment they were made public, the baseball-style conferences were always going to be a non-starter. Any system that can allow a team to win far fewer games than their closest rival and still be champions must be flawed. As for the proposed 25-match one-day league, and for all its potential money-making largesse, the words tedious and tiresome come to mind, with bits and pieces players becoming a priority rather than a rarity.

Of course two divisions would probably have shaken some of the complacency out of cricket. There are too many soft games of cricket, but tougher scraps over promotion and relegation are unlikely to attract both younger and larger crowds or improve the lot of the England side. In case it matters, no one watches Sheffield Shield

cricket, or Ranji Trophy cricket, or Red Stripe Cup cricket, and they still turn out decent Test cricketers. Let's face it, county cricket is essentially a game followed in the media.

It is a difficult act to balance, but while the best need rest, the rest need better cricket. Twelve years ago, Essex's overseas player was a masterful batsman

called Ken McEwan. Brought up on South Africa's Currie Cup, McEwan actually preferred county cricket as it gave him more innings in the middle. Contrast that with the way most bowlers feel, and you begin to realise the difficult scope of Lord MacLaurin's task.

In fact, a pepping-up of the

championship with promotion and relegation would place even more pressure on our Test players to serve two masters.

Solutions can only hope to be found once an elite squad is contracted to the ECB, and players like Darren Gough and Dominic Cork - who have missed far too much recent Test cricket through injury - do not feel obliged to play for their counties.

Although he was upbeat about the outcome of his meeting at the press conference afterwards - after all, the majority of the "Raising the Standard" blueprint was in fact accepted - Lord MacLaurin must surely be miffed that changes to the county game, the apex of the ECB pyramid, have failed. Despite his claims that the incre-

mental change of evolution and not revolution has been started, many will wonder whether his position as chairman of the ECB is still tenable.

Persuasive though he is, MacLaurin has been unable to reach into the private fields that dominate the county game.

Having said earlier that he

would not tolerate inertia, he

has failed to move, by more than

a smidgen, the entrenched

rituals of county cricket.

It has been, by common consent, a thankless task. The issues are complex and deep-seated, and not easily solvable by mere structural changes.

Improving the competitiveness of the England team was ap-

parently the original *raison d'être* for the blueprint. In the

ensuing mêlée that has been lost

sight of. Let us hope it can be put right by winning the 1999

World Cup.

A new dawn for English cricket? The sun rising yesterday over the St Lawrence Ground at Canterbury, Kent's headquarters

Peter Jay

'We're in the biggest mess ever' says Botham

The former England captain Ian Botham led a chorus of disapproval in response to the decision by the chairmen of the first-class counties to reject Lord MacLaurin's proposals for restructuring the county game, and not to embrace a two-division championship involving promotion and relegation.

"I think we're in the biggest mess we've been in. We had the

chance to put it right. But these people live in their little ivory towers. The biggest problem is that they think that the game is for the members. It's not. It's for the whole country."

Matthew Fleming, the Kent all-rounder and chairman of the Professional Cricketers' Association, said: "I am disappointed. When the PCA did a

questionnaire of all the players, 75 per cent of them voted for a two-divisional championship and as such I have to say this is a decision which judges the issue. There is a lot of momentum and now is the time to change. I didn't think there was an option for no change and as far as I am concerned this is no change."

Jim Cumbes, Lancashire's

acting chief executive, said: "As a club who has supported two divisions, we were very disappointed with the vote. We thought there was everything to gain and nothing to lose by going for two divisions to make the game more competitive and of more interest. It's disappointing to say the least that we have not made any progress."

The reaction of the International Cricket Council was to find the Test batsman guilty of "conduct unbecoming an international cricket player and for bringing the game into disrepute". He has been suspended for the next two cup matches - tomorrow and Saturday - and will be suspended for a third match if he misbehaves again before the end of the year.

"He's a wonderful batsman, but I don't know how good a boxer he is," Geoff Boycott, the TV commentator and former England batsman, said.

For the record, India won the second of the one-day games by seven wickets and lead the five-match series 2-0.

PHILIPS



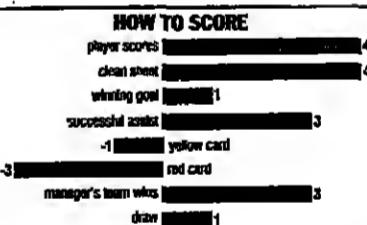
Today we publish the latest results of The Independent Fantasy Football League. The player scores are calculated on all games played up to and including September 14th. The league table includes all scores played until September 8th.

Every time one of your players score you get four points. There are four points for a keeper or a defender every time their team keeps a clean sheet. If a player scores the winning goal, i.e.: if there is a one goal difference in the scoreline, the player scoring the final goal for the winning team is awarded 1 bonus point awarded in addition to standard goal related points. Each successful Assist, a pass judged by our experts to lead directly to a goal, will give a player 3 points. The opinion of our experts on the matter is final. Each player selected and starting a game will be awarded one point.

If a player is given a Yellow Card they lose 1 point, if a player is given a Red Card they lose 3 points. Own goals, either scored or conceded, do not count.

The Premiership Manager that you choose will be awarded 3 points if their real-life team wins, 1 point is awarded if they draw and no points are given if they lose.

Updated player scores and league tables will be published every Tuesday in *The Independent* and repeated the following Sunday in *The Independent on Sunday*.



INDEPENDENT FANTASY FOOTBALL

OVERALL SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 8 AUGUST - 14 SEPTEMBER

LEAGUE TABLE			
CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 8 AUGUST - 14 SEPTEMBER			
POS	NAME	TEAM	POINTS
1	Mr A. Mitchell	The Big Four	269
2	Mr David Evans	We Started But Will I Finish	269
3	Mr John Cox	Southville FC	267
4	Mr Mike Evans	Milnes E Team	265
5	Mr B. Srai	Over The Moon Brian	263
6	Mr Miles Evans	Milnes D. Team	267
7	Mr Chris King	Seeking Victory	267
8	Mr Phil Tufnell	Pin Up 4	267
9	Mr David Evans	Ouzinc End Old Blues	267
10	Mr John Cox	Southville FC	267
11	Mr Mike Evans	Milnes E Team	265
12	Mr Ian Solla	Leeds	265
13	Mr A. Wrigg	Wembley Benders	265
14	Mr Tom Lyons	Tony's Brace	265
15	Mr Chris Sunker	Diana's Demons	265
16	Mr Saurabh Scott	Berkham United	263
17	Mr B. Srai	The Dream Team	263
18	Mr Ivan P. Bicknell	The Untouchables	262
19	Mr Miles Evans	Milnes B. Team	262
20	Mr Ivan P. Bicknell	Stash In The Pan	262
21	Mr David Evans	Billy Boys 1st & 2nd	262
22	Mr Miles Evans	Albion United	261
23	Mr B. Srai	Nursery PK Rovers	261
24	Mr David Baker	XPS Rules	261
25	Mr Ian Down	The Ruffus	260
26	Mr Miles Evans	Mr Miles Evans	260
27	Mr David Baker	Mambo Mambo	260
28	Mr David Aston	Billy Boys 3rd & 2nd	260
29	Mr Miles Evans	Milnes F Team	258
30	Mr B. Srai	Simply The Best	257
31	Mr Miles Evans	Working W.A.K.	257
32	Mr Miles Evans	The Train Team	257
33	Mr David Baker	Deja Vu	256
34	Mr Michael Richard	Alder Lambing	255
35	Mr David Edington	Edme United	255
36	Mr Peter Cridland	PDC2	253
37	Mr Roland Dunn	12 Angry Men	253
38	Mr Jonathan Furness	Red Star Silver	253
39	Mr Miles Evans	Dead Beat	252
40	Mr T. Parker	A Summer Time Breeze	251
41	Mr David Baker	Dead Heat	251
42	Ms Jennifer Moore	Jen's Jumping Giants	250

GOALKEEPERS	TEAM	W/C OF VALUE	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	W/C OF VALUE	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	W/C OF VALUE	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	W/C OF VALUE	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	W/C OF VALUE	CODE	PLAYER
400 Seaman	ARS	1	14	450 Cox	BOL	0	6	455 Elst	SOU	0	12	500 Landelawan	LSE	12	26	545 Wallace	LEI	1	4	584 Dakin
401 Alice	ARS	0	0	457 Ellough	BOL	0	12	501 Teggart	BOL	0	6	546 Sharpe	LSE	12	14	546 Whistlin	CAR	0	13	585 Huckerby
402 Mairinger	ARS	0	0	458 Bergman	BOL	0	10	502 Calderwood	TOT	0	29	547 Heald	LSE	9	12	546 Sherriff	CAR	0	10	585 Huckerby
403 Bowch	AV	0	12	459 Berry	CHE	0	13	503 Austin	TOT	0	21	548 Heald	LSE	0	25	547 Heald	CAR	0	13	585 Huckerby
404 Chak	BAR	0	12	460 Pernson	CHE	0	31	504 Carr	TOT	1	15	549 Izart	LEI	1	6	550 Freedman	CAR	0	10	585 Huckerby
405 Lethie	BAR	0	12	461 Leboudre	CHE	0	25	505 Mabbutt	TOT	1	15	551 Lenham	LEI	1	4	551 Lenham	CAR	0	11	585 Huckerby
406 Flowers	BAR	0	12	462 Ditch	CHE	0	12	506 McHale	TOT	0	12	552 Lippay	LIV	0	12	552 Lippay	CAR	0	12	585 Huckerby
407 Film	BAR	0	12	463 Shue	CHE	0	12	507 McHale	TOT	0	12	553 Redmenn	LIV	0	12	553 Redmenn	CAR	0	12	585 Huckerby
408 Flanagan	BAR	0	12	464 Shurrow	CHE	0	14	508 McHale	TOT	0	12	554 Rees	LIV	0	12	554 Rees	CAR	0	12	585 Huckerby
409 De Grey	CHE	0	17	465 Smith	CHE	0	15	509 McHale	TOT	0	12	555 Rees	LIV	0	12	555 Rees	CAR	0	12	585 Huckerby
410 Grods	CHE	0	17	466 Trott	CHE	0	15	510 McHale	TOT	0	12	556 Rees	LIV	0	12	556				

Juninho leads the Madrid revolutionaries

Atletico Madrid, who entertain Leicester in the Uefa Cup tonight, have always played in the shadow cast by their internationally famous neighbours Real Madrid. However, the team are hoping that the acquisition of Juninho from Middlesbrough will prove the catalyst for a change. Phil Shaw reports from Madrid

Juninho's adoring public in Middlesbrough would have a surprise if they saw the stage for which he forsook the English game. One of the most striking things about the Vicente Calderon Stadium, where Atletico Madrid's £11m man renews hostilities with Leicester City tonight, is how similar its setting is to the Riverside Stadium.

Atletico's home stands the old industrial quarter of the Spanish capital, even closer to the murky waters of the Manzanares than Boro are to the Tees. And instead of the ICI plant which dominates the skyline in his previous habitat, Juninho now passes a massive gasworks as he drives to the ground.

As yes, driving. The roads which service the Riverside scarcely compare with the six-lane Madrid ring road that roars directly beneath the Vicente Calderon's main stand, parallel to the touchline, around the clock. When the lorries, cars and coaches are moving thick and fast, it is said that Juninho's new constituency in the upper tier can feel the floor gently vibrating.

Despite this unique feature, the Leicestershire fans queuing for tickets yesterday would have recognised it as a fairly typical inner-city stadium, albeit one with 57,000 seats. The shock, at least with regard to Juninho, is that the diminutive Brazilian was so clearly born to grace the game's great arenas: Maracana, San Siro, Nou Camp, Old Trafford, et al.

At the risk of offending Atletico's notoriously volatile president and owner,

Jesus Gil, even their most ardent followers would be pushed to justify the inclusion of this venue on such a list.

Yet the very presence of *El Niño*, "The Little One", is proof of Gil's 10-year crusade, nay obsession, to make Atletico one of Europe's great clubs. Likewise a summer outlay of £38m which also secured Christian Vieri for £12.5m, plus the much vaunted Jordi Lardín from Espanyol, and three others.

Atletico have occasionally flirted with the status enjoyed by Milan, Ajax and company. In 1962 they became the second-ever holders of the Cup-Winners' Cup, having disposed of Leicester, by strange coincidence, in the second round. Twelve years on there was a Champions' Cup final, where they were well beaten by Bayern Munich. But their image has always suffered by a very parochial comparison.

Real Madrid, with all their European Cups, glamour and popularity, give a fresh twist to the topical notion of neighbours from hell. Whatever Atletico achieve under Gil and his estimable coach, the former Luton player Raddy Antic, they appear destined to live with the knowledge that Real will always be the bigger noise.

The contrast between the clubs' grounds reveals much about their respective identities and place in the national and international hierarchy. Real's Bernabeu Stadium lies on a salubrious thoroughfare called the Castellana, and does not look out of place among the museums, mansions, trees, lawns and monuments.

The relationship between Real and Atletico can be likened to that of the Manchester clubs. Real's high profile fostering a contempt bordering on paranoia among Atletico's fans. They claim, for instance, that the true *Madrileno* do not support Real. Derby games take on a meaning which transcends local enmity. "If we beat them," Gil claimed before one, "there'll be a nationwide orgasm."

Atletico, though, have tended to beat Real more often than City defeat United (not difficult) and while Maine Road has



Focal point: the new Atletico will be 'a cyclone with Juninho at its centre', according to the club's president

Kamark the man for the main job

Whenever he broke away to join his team-mates in the morning sun at Atletico Madrid's training centre, Pontus Kamark was called back for another interview with the Spanish media. It is not every day, after all, that you meet the man who had Brazil's pocket rocket in his pocket.

Leicester's manager, Martin O'Neill, would not confirm that Kamark would be instructed to shadow Juninho again in tonight's Uefa Cup first round, first leg, match with Atletico. But as the versatile Swede marked him out of the Coca-Cola Cup final against Middlesbrough, it will be a surprise if he is not. The difference, as O'Neill pointed out, is that Atletico have more players who can assume the creative mantle if their driving force is subdued.

"There's a danger of concentrating too much on Juninho because he's the one we know," he said. "By the end of the two games I'm sure we'll know other Atletico players equally well."

He has seen Atletico twice, once in the flesh and is under no illusions. "At times they build up slowly, then it suddenly becomes explosive," he said, as much in admiration as in trepidation.

Quite what Raddy Antic, his opposite number, has made of Leicester is harder to gauge. He had them watched in the defeat at Sheffield and in Saturday's rout of Tottenham. "That was a heck of an improvement," O'Neill said. "If Hillsborough had been our last match, they wouldn't have expected many problems with us," O'Neill said.

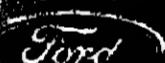
He believed Atletico would be "very wary" of Emile Heskey. Antic will warn his team about Leicester's indomitable spirit, but must be confident that their high-speed touch play will find a way through, or round, a defence noted for aerial power rather than mobility.

Thirty six years ago, Gordon Banks saved a penalty but Atletico beat Leicester 2-0 here to advance in the Cup Winners' Cup. In 1980, John Robertson, O'Neill's No 2, won the European Cup for Nottingham Forest in Madrid. Two years later, O'Neill thought he had scored for Northern Ireland in the World Cup at otherwise and France to win comfortably.

If history is to repeat itself, both will settle for Kamark shackling Juninho and Leicester upsetting the odds once more.

Phil Shaw

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TONIGHT'S UEFA CUP FOOTBALL: CELTIC v LIVERPOOL

Fervour tempered by respect and realism

Tonight's encounter between Celtic and Liverpool is the first European meeting of English and Scottish clubs for five years. Glen Moore reports from Glasgow

It is 32 years since Celtic and Liverpool met in a competitive fixture but they will hardly be strangers. Celtic, or more accurately their supporters, are the biggest testimonial draw in the game and the two teams have met regularly in the last few seasons. The most poignant of these occasions was in April 1989, in a match for the victims of Hillsborough, and the relationship forged then has endured.

For that reason, rather than any new maturity following last week's devotional vote, there will be the customary anti-Swedes mood at Celtic Park tonight. There will be fervour, and those stirring anthems with English-blood-curdling lyrics, but it will be tempered with respect and realism.

Celtic may have won six matches in succession but none is pretending that Motherwell and St Johnstone are an adequate warm-up act for Liverpool. Not that Liverpool are

BORDEAUX v ASTON VILLA

Little pleads for patience

The Aston Villa manager, Brian Little, yesterday warned his side not to hit the panic button if they are to avoid another early European exit.

Little's team are in France for a Uefa Cup first round first leg tie against Bordeaux tonight, with the embarrassment of last season's defeat to Helsingborg still fresh in their minds. Little realises he made a tactical error last term, when the Swedes won on the away-goals rule.

"We have to have a different mentality for Europe," Little said. "The main thing is to be sensible, not get carried away and try and keep as calm as you

PAOK SALONIKA v ARSENAL

Arsenal Wenger can pass on his experience of matches in Greece to prepare Arsenal for their Uefa Cup tie against PAOK Salonika.

The former Maccabi coach painted an alarming picture of what Arsenal and their travelling supporters might expect from the first round, first leg at a stadium called The Tomb tonight.

Salonika were banned from Europe for two seasons five years ago after missile attacks by fans on the players and supporters of Paris St-Germain.

Wenger said: "With Maccabi we played against Olympiakos and AEK Athens and

the force of old, not yet. They are considerably further along the rebuilding road than Celtic though and will be deserved favourites for the two-legged tie.

"Liverpool are such a high quality side it is clearly going to be very difficult for us," Wim Jansen, Celtic's Dutch coach, said yesterday. Jansen has signed seven players and he added: "We have made progress, we will know after these games how much progress." Henrik Larsson, already a cult hero after his transfer from Feyenoord - a £600,000 deal that owed much to Jansen's inside knowledge - is Celtic's cutting edge, with the wide midfielders Regi and Andreas Thom his most likely providers.

An English Celtic is relishing the night most. Alan Stubbs is not having the best of times at Celtic but, as a life-long Everton fan, the moment he heard the draw was, he said, "a once in a lifetime" experience. "There is no point in thinking this is too soon. There will be an electric atmosphere and we have every chance."

Stubbs may be up against Robbie Fowler who, said Roy Evans, "has done a little bit of training over the weekend and I'm very happy with him. It would be a brave decision to play Robbie but it is one I may have to make."

Rangers could be without

four key players for their Uefa Cup first-round first leg match against Strasbourg in France tonight.

Manager Walter Smith's main worry is over the

goalkeeping role, as both Andy Goram and Antti Niemi were ruled out of the 3-3 draw against

Aberdeen on Saturday.

The odds favour an 18th hit but it will not be easy for Liverpool.

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Pontypridd face expulsion after bar-room brawl

The relationship between the great rugby powers of Wales and France lay in tatters yesterday, after a bar-room brawl that put three Brive internationals in hospital and three Pontypridd players in court. Chris Hewett and Adam Szreter report on a body-blow to the game's image.

The punch-up on the field was bad enough, but the Wild West-style saloon brawl that succeeded it was infinitely worse. Pontypridd, roundly accused as the instigators of Sunday night's bloody excesses in the centre of Brive, will be called to account by Heineken Cup officials this week and may well find themselves thrown out of the competition in disgrace.

Dale McIntosh, the Ponty No 8, Phil John, the Welsh club's hooker, and Andre Barnard, a recent midfield recruit from South Africa, appeared before a French prosecutor yesterday afternoon following a spectacular free-for-all between rival players and supporters in the Bar Le Toulzac, a popular watering hole situated in the ironically named Place-de-Patriotes Martyrs. The three players, accused of "violence and degradation", are to be brought before an investigating judge, and in all 12 Pontypridd players may end up being questioned.

The team had been due to fly out of Brive yesterday at

9.30am, but at 8am the police arrived. The chartered plane later left without the players who, wisely, spent the rest of the day in their hotel.

McIntosh had been sent off as a result of his role in the original mass set-to in the 26th minute of Sunday's game, which Brive, the reigning European champions, won by a point on the back of a disputed injury time try. The abrasive New Zealander antagonised the home crowd by smiling mockingly and giving them "victorious" thumbs-up signs as he headed for the dressing-room and was later suspended for 30 days. Lionel Mallier, the Brive flanker dismissed for his part in the same incident, received an identical punishment.

Depressingly, the matter did not rest there. Eye witnesses said a number of Brive players were drinking in the bar, jointly owned by Jean-Marie Souhra, a former player, when the Welsh contingent arrived. Something approaching bedlam promptly ensued and when the dust finally settled – or, rather, the police tear gas evaporated – M Souhra, was left to contemplate the extensive damage to his property caused by flying bottles and furniture.

Philippe Carboneau, the Brive captain who had incensed the Welshmen by openly bursting Stuart Roy during the match, needed hospital treatment for a broken nose, as did Christophe Lamaison, his colleague in the French Test side. A third international, David Venditti, suffered a bite wound to his hand and was also treated.

Speaking to French radio, it could hardly be more serious.

Carboneau said the Pontypridd group "started to bother us, hit us, then after that it was crazy. Before the police came we were really afraid." Lamaison ruled out any possibility of Brive travelling to Sardis Road for the return match on Saturday week.

"It would be impossible for us," he said.

Brive may be spared the trouble of making that particular stand. The directors of European Rugby Cup Ltd, the high-powered body established to oversee the Heineken Cup and safeguard its growing reputation as the brightest jewel in the crown of northern hemisphere club rugby, have demanded written reports from both managements. The ultimate sanction is stark and simple: expulsion, not only from this season's competition but indefinitely.

Roger Pickering, the tournament director, stuck firmly to the diplomatic line yesterday, insisting that no assumptions could be made until the full facts had been made available. But the French were in no mood to hold back. Bernard Lapasset, the president of the county's rugby federation, called for Pontypridd to be banned from the tournament and any proven ringleader to be excluded from the Heineken Cup for life.

The Welsh Rugby Union was also demanding an explanation from Pontypridd. One WRU source said: "The view here was that Brive were the more culpable in causing the brawl that broke out on the pitch. But the bar incident is something else again. It could hardly be more serious."



Pontypridd's Phil John (No 2) clashes with Brive's Patrick Lubungu in Sunday's abrasive Heineken Cup match

AFP

'Pandemonium. The Welsh were like animals'

A brawl in a French town has left the rugby world shocked by the actions of some of the players involved. Adam Szreter visits the bar in Brive where sporting passions erupted into violence

months ago, and it is there that the town's rugby players now go for a drink after a match. Bruno may be an unfortunate name given the nature of the proceedings, but he insisted that he, for one, was not throwing any punches.

"I was behind the bar protecting my head so I didn't see everything," he said, "but they were throwing chairs and tables at the Brive players and at the walls. The police arrived but they couldn't do anything."

"One of the Welsh players tried to intervene but he was thumped by one of his own team-mates, and if two or three of the Brive players hadn't stepped in to protect the injured ones, someone could have got killed. I've never seen anything like it, except on television and at the cinema." Outside, the fighting had spilled over on to

the small terrace and there was a long trail of blood.

Lionel Mallier, sent off along with Pontypridd's Dale McIntosh during Sunday's ill-tempered European Cup match, admitted he was fighting again with McIntosh in the bar.

"When they first arrived I

sensed trouble but Phil John [a Ponty player] bought me a drink and for 10 minutes it was OK.

But then there was a flare-up between McIntosh and [Philippe] Carboneau and all hell broke loose.

It was pandemonium. The Welsh were like animals."

Brive, a sleepy town of 50,000 people, 150 miles north-east of Toulouse, is famous only by association with the French president Jacques Chirac, who was born 20 miles away, and now for its rugby.

A local taxi driver explained that he had heard of the trouble and was not surprised the police had been unable to deal with it. "We have very little crime in Brive and consequently there are very few policemen. They will have had no experience of this kind of thing."

Covert proceedings were

taking place at the local gendarmerie all day. Having made no arrests the previous evening, they started off yesterday with a dawn raid on the Pontypridd team's hotel, taking five players away for questioning.

Information was sketchy, and the police were reluctant to talk to any foreign media. Eventually, when the players came out of the police station to be taken to the local prosecuting magistrate, it was through a rear exit to avoid the fearsome sight of six journalists and two photographers.

Just around the corner from the Bar Le Toulzac itself, in the Rue de Paris, the Heineken Cup sits proudly in the window of the club shop. Whether Brive will win it again this year is hard to say. For now, they will just be hoping they are allowed to defend it with some honour.



Philippe Carboneau after treatment to his broken nose

Cricket's establishment opts to maintain the status quo

The first-class counties and the MCC have decided against making changes to the way the County Championship operates. Yesterday they rejected a plan to create two divisions, but accepted a similar scheme for a National League of 50-over matches on Sundays. David Llewellyn reports

The ashes of cricket's revolution were swept under the carpet at Lord's yesterday. The bold talk of radical changes resulted in a radical status quo. The County Championship, which most had agreed needed beefing up to help produce more competitive cricketers, is to stay the same.

A meeting between the England and Wales Cricket Board and the First Class forum, which comprises the 18 first-class counties and the MCC voted 12-7 in favour of maintaining the all-play-all

structure which has existed for more than 100 years.

The incentives to make it

more competitive are financial.

The top eight counties in next

year's Championship will qualify for a Super Cup the year after, when this country plays host to the 1999 World Cup.

The format of the Super Cup

will be 50 overs and will, in effect, be the Benson & Hedges Cup from the quarter-final stages. The new two division, 50-over, one-day National League with promotion and relegation – three clubs up and

three down – will start in 1999, with the counties' positions in next season's AXA Life League determining the First or Second Division of the new tournament.

The bottom four in the

Championship next year face

being drawn against one another the following year's revised NatWest Trophy, instead

of having the chance of playing a Minor County.

Lord MacLaurin then con-

ceded: "The conference was

not a starter. I would have gone

for a two divisional structure

and maybe in my lifetime we

will get there. We will give this

system three years."

Derek Pringle, page 28

Ian Wright Wright Wright

PAOK Salonika vs Arsenal live from 6:30 tonight on 5
Followed by Bordeaux vs Aston Villa from 9:20.